BATTLE ROYALE

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

MangaBunny says:
Remember to read
from right to left

BATTLE ROYALE

BY

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

VOL. 2

TOKYOPOP®

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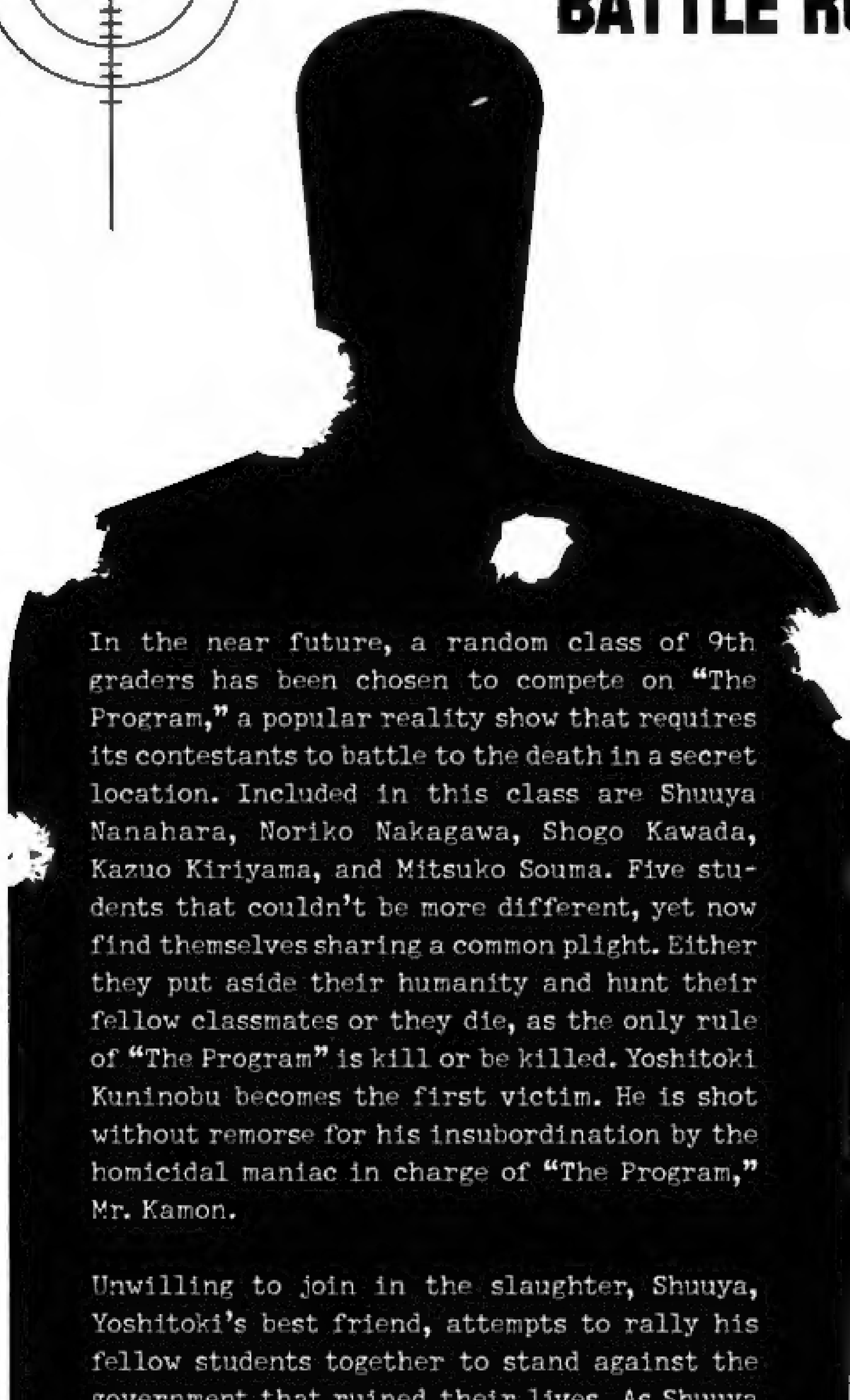
BATTLE ROYALE



In the near future, a random class of 9th graders has been chosen to compete on "The Program," a popular reality show that requires its contestants to battle to the death in a secret location. Included in this class are Shuuya Nanahara, Noriko Nakagawa, Shogo Kawada, Kazuo Kiriyama, and Mitsuko Souma. Five students that couldn't be more different, yet now find themselves sharing a common plight. Either they put aside their humanity and hunt their fellow classmates or they die, as the only rule of "The Program" is kill or be killed. Yoshitoki Kuninobu becomes the first victim. He is shot without remorse for his insubordination by the homicidal maniac in charge of "The Program," Mr. Kamon.

Unwilling to join in the slaughter, Shuuya, Yoshitoki's best friend, attempts to rally his fellow students together to stand against the government that ruined their lives. As Shuuya pursues his dream of an alliance, the beautiful but deadly Mitsuko's brutal behavior proves that some students have no use for allies. Some students are playing to win. With uncertainty around every corner, tension setting in, and death a possibility with every student he meets, Shuuya finds himself clinging to hope in a nightmare from which he will never wake.

HF...
HF...
HF...
HF...
HF...
HF...
HF...
A-HUH...
A-HUH...

CHAPTER 9: Kazuo Kiriyama (Part One)

SUCK IT UP... ALMOST THERE...

ALMOST THERE...

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #17:

MITSURU NUMAI

AKAMATSU... DOOFUS JUST DIDN'T GET IT.

TAKE THE TEARS OUTSIDE. GO, GO.

OFF WITH YOU.

SNF... SNF...

FROM KAZUO...
HUH...
MITSURU.
PSST...
!

MEET ME AT THE SOUTHERNMOST END OF THIS ROCK BE CAREFUL.
.....
GIRL NUMBER TWO, YUKIE UTSUMI. STEP LIVELY NOW!
Shifft...

DAMN STRAIGHT!
SAVE THE HISTRIONICS FOR THE CAMERAS, EH?

SHOULD'A FIGURED. ANYONE'S GONNA GET A HANDLE ON THIS, KAZUO'S THE GUY.

KAZUO KIRIYAMA. THE UNTOUCH-ABLE!

MADE ME A SOMEBODY! MORE'N I EVER GOT AT HOME...

HE SAW! HE SAW WHATEV-ER IT WAS AND LET ME IN!

HF...

MADE ME ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS. ME! WHAT DID I HAVE TO OFFER A GUY LIKE HIM?

HF...

BIG BOSS, A-NUMBER ONE, BEST BELIEVE IT!

HF...

HF...

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE TOOK ME IN.

TURN 'AT FUGGIN' CRAP DOWN...

GRUH...

.....

NEVER FELT LIKE NOBODY AT HOME. JUST... IN THE WAY...

NO ACCOUNT, MUSH-MOUTHED LUSH ALWAYS GIVING ME CRAP ABOUT MY GRADES... WHAT ALL!

CONSIDER IT A DOWN PAY-MENT ON THE LIFE YOU TWO LOSERS OWE ME!

FAMILY!? ARE YOU ON DRUGS OLD WOMAN?!

OH, YEAH... I WAS A GEM.

STEALING? FROM FAMILY?!

MITSURU?

I GIVE YOU A CUT LIKE THIS... WHAT'RE YOUR PARENTS GONNA THINK?

I DUNNO, KIO...

COULDN'T EVEN GET A HAIRCUT WITHOUT SOMEONE GIVING ME GRIEF.

理容 オリタ

YOU WATCH THAT TONE, YOUNG MAN!

PEOPLE GIVE YOU CRAP...

I'M LOOKING LIKE I CARE?

SAY IT!!

WHO'S STRONGEST? WHO'S STRONGEST IN THE SCHOOL?

LEARNED THAT LESSON EARLY ON.

...YOU GOTTA GIVE IT RIGHT BACK. HARD!

SAY IT! C'MON! SAY IT!

HARD'S THE WAY. 'COURSE YOU'D BEST BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BACK IT UP.

JUST... JUST LIKE YOU SAID... RIGHT?

THERE...

JUST LIKE I SAID. RIGHT.

SAY IT!

I WAS.

THE OLDER I GOT, THE HARDER I GOT. HAD TO.

図書室

IT'S A HARD WORLD OUT THERE.

II

II

HARDEST MAN WINS. TOP O' THE WORLD, MA!

WHO'S STRONGEST IN THE SCHOOL, PUNK?

GIVE YOU A HINT. M. E. YOU SPELL, PUNK?

!!

SOUNDED ABOUT RIGHT FROM HERE, FROSH.

F...

FUCK YOU.

WRONG ANSWER, PUNK.

YEAH... NEVER TOL' YOU Y' GOTTA PLAY NICE?

MOMMY 'N' DADDY NEVER TEACH YOU NO MANNERS?

S'MATTER?

pop!

krak!

ALWAYS SOME-ONE...

THREE ON ONE MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE BIG MEN?

THIS THE WAY, GUYS?

ALWAYS SOMEONE GIVING ME GRIEF...

BRING IT ON!

FIRST DIBS!

WH-WHOA!

WH-
UGK!

!!

FROSH
BOMB!

HR-ROH!

MANNERS,
FRESHMAN.

clik...

M-HM. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS RESPECT YOUR ELDERS. ELDERS BEING *US*.

!?

THEY CAN'T BE SERIOUS! CAN'T--

WH-WHA... WHAT ARE THEY...

GRR- R R R A H!

A-HEH...

A-HEH...

UNDERCLASSMEN BELONG TO US. ANY WHALIN' ON GONNA BE DONE BY UPPERCLASSMEN. FOLLOW?

HARD LESSON, HARD TAUGHT, FROSH.

BAS-TARDS! FUCKIN' CRAZY BAS-TARDS BROKE MY--

I'M SORRY?

I'M...

NO...NO, NO, NO... THIS ISN'T THE WAY... I'M STRONGEST. I'M...

CHK...

WHAT SAY WE MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE LESSON STICKS?

SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO STUDY!

GONNA HAVE TO FINGER YOUR HONEY LEFTY FOR A WHILE.

BUT... TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.

PROGRESS! HE SEES THE LIGHT!

TAKE IT OUTSIDE. YOU'RE DISTURBING ME.

YOU DON'T WANT TO DISTURB ME.

.....

YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

.....

THAT WHAT WE GOT HERE, FROSH-MEAT? EH? EH?

GOT US A REGULAR ATTITUDE EPIDEMIC GOING HERE.

LISTEN TO THIS. ANOTHER FROSH WITH ATTITUDE.

BEST LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE AND ANSWER THE MAN, 'LESS YOU WANT US LOOSENING IT FOR YOU!

スケッ

WELL?

.....

!!

SON OF A...

CHEAP SHOT, BASTARD!

.....

HMP

THAT WAS HARD, MAN! EXTREME HARD!

HOW'D YOU DO THAT? HOW'D YOU...

!

OLIVIA!

DUDE!

WHO?

HEY! HEY! WITH THE BOOK!

Y'KNOW... HARD, MAN!

TAKE NO SHIT, DOWN AND DIRTY, HARD CASE PRIME!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR USE OF THE WORD.

.....

HARD?

スゥ...

LEARNED ?

.....

A...

A SCIENCE BOOK?

HUMAN ANATOMY?

NO ATTITUDE... NO SWAGGER...

HE DIDN'T NEED THAT CRAP. HE KNEW, AND THAT WAS ENOUGH.

HE KNEW...

I SIMPLY USED WHAT I LEARNED FROM THIS BOOK.

人体

KNOW WHAT IS BREAKABLE. IT WASN'T VERY HARD AT ALL.

SAID LIKE IT DIDN'T MATTER. BUT IT DID. IT DID.

KAZUO. KAZUO KIRIYAMA.

AND NOW I KNEW.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HE WAS ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE. HE WAS...

... HARD!

THANK YOU, KAZUO KIRIYAMA. I AM IN YOUR DEBT.

THANK YOU...

PROGRAM MY ASS! BOSS DON'T DO NO PROGRAMS. GONNA BEAT THIS, SEE IF HE DON'T.

!

GONNA RUN THESE GOVERNMENT FUKES LIKE THEY WAS RATS IN A MAZE. YEAH!

KAZUO WILL FIGURE THE ANGLES, GET US OUT OF THIS ALIVE. BOSS GOT IT DOWN.

YEAH! GET THE GANG TOGETH-ER AND SHOW THEM WHO THEY'RE DEALING WITH...

BOSS KAZUO.

.....

BOSS A-NUMBER ONE, KAZUO KIRIYAMA, GONNA SHOW THEM ALL!

MAKE THEM SORRY THEY EVER CHOSE THIS CLASS. BETCHER ASS!

KIRIYAMA'S GANG DON'T PLAY NO GAMES...

...'LESS KIRIYAMA'S CALLIN' THE SHOTS

YO! BOSS!

!?

WHO KNEW THEY'D BLEED OUT SLIPPERY?

WHO KNEW?

WATCH YOUR STEP.

WHA...

BLEED? BLEED OUT?

BATTLE ROYALE INDEX, I.I

NON-AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE ARMY

Land-based division of the Greater East Asia Republic's military. The Non-Aggressive Defense Army is comprised solely of volunteers, as the institution of a draft system within the Commonwealth is prohibited by law.

THE NECKLACE

Official name: Personal Electronic Surveillance and Restraint System. The result of a three-year project funded by the state to develop an infallible restraint and surveillance system for use in government prisons. "The Necklace" is a shock absorbing and waterproof collar that utilizes a triangulation-based tracking device and an internal explosive that can be detonated electronically.

GREATER EAST ASIA REPUBLIC (COMMONWEALTH)

Located in the chain of islands composing Eastern Asia, the Commonwealth was established in the 21st century as a socialist nation. With its strong police force and military, the Commonwealth unsurprisingly enjoys one of the lowest national crime rates in the world, with the majority of the population living in peace and tranquility. The occasional protester or resistance movement is dealt with quickly and efficiently, with the guilty party facing charges of treason. When convicted, they are punished and removed from the country. Heavy limitation on imports has led the Commonwealth to accept a de facto isolationist policy. However, despite widespread humanitarian concerns within the international community, the Commonwealth exports billions in manufactured goods each year, due to the superior quality and low price of their products. As a result, the Commonwealth's economy has the highest per capita GNP in the world.

THE PROGRAM

Official name: Greater East Asia Republic Combat Experiment Program Number 68, aka The Battle Royale Act. This once-controversial yearly program randomly selects a single 9th grade class from a list of 50 possible candidates to engage in a gladiator-style fight to the death. Declared necessary for national defense and safety, the first Battle Royale took place in 1947 and met with a fierce opposition from the national anti-military movement. Today, however, the Battle Royale Act has become standard government policy. Participation in The Program cannot be refused, and families of participants view their children's sacrifice as a civic duty. The setting in which the combat takes place varies, usually changing every few years. Past locations have included former prisons, military bases, and remote valleys secured by electric perimeters. The Program's current location is Okishima, a small island north of Takamatsu in the Seto Island Sea.

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BATTLE ROYALE

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

"Royale hits all the manga bases (martial arts, creepy old men, panty shots) without being Sailor Moon silly... A-"
— Marc Bernardin, Entertainment Weekly

The horror of The Program escalates in this second volume of Battle Royale, Koushun Takami and Masayuki Taguchi's terrifying tale of friendship and betrayal. Shuuya's attempts at forming an alliance lead him to the mysterious Shogo Kawada, a transfer student with uncertain motives. Shogo could be a powerful ally...if he can be trusted. Meanwhile—having also decided not to play the game—what fate is in store for devoted couple Sakura and Kazuhiko? And the deadly Kazuo must decide what to do about his gang. Will he allow them to join him? Or will Mitsuru and the rest just slow him down?

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

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MATURE AGES 16+

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BATTLE ROYALE 2

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

EXPLICIT CONTENT

PARENTAL ADVISORY

EXPLICIT CONTENT

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY KEITH GIFFEN

CHAPTER 10: Kazuo Kiriyama (Part Two)

OFF THE DEEP END SOMETIMES. NOT THAT ANYONE'D EVER SAY...

.....

YOU SAY SO, KAZUO.

NOT OUT LOUD. DISRESPECT THE BOSS AT YOUR OWN RISK.

BOSS WAS DEEP.

ON AVERAGE

BOWLING BALL... HUMAN HEAD... SAME HEFT.

THE HEFT IS THE SAME, MITSURU.

12

学期末試験結果 1~30

...AND SMART? DA-AMN...

BOSS BE HARD...

YEAH.

PERFECT

.....

YO, MITSURU...

CHECK IT OUT. KAZUO SCORED PERFECT AGAIN

ACROSS THE BOARD PERFECT. WHATEVER IT WAS HE PUT HIS MIND TO...

...ACROSS THE BOARD, DEAD ON PERFECT.

NO WAY! TEACHER'S A THIRD DEGREE BLACK BELT!

YOU COME FROM THAT KINDA STOCK, THERE'S ALL KINDS OF EXPECTA-TIONS. PRESSURE, Y'KNOW?

WHAT WITH HIS DAD BEING A HIGH MUCKY-MUCK 'N ALL.

GUESS HE PRETTY MUCH HAD TO BE PERFECT.

BOSS BE WAY TOO HARD TO EVER LET ON.

NOT THAT KAZUO'D EVER LET ON.

OPPOSITES ATTRACT... I GUESS. MAYBE IT'S HIS WAY OF REBELLING...

HARD TO FIGURE WHAT DREW HIM TO THE LIKES OF US... LIKES OF ME.

AIN'T LIKE HE POINTS 'N WE FETCH. BOSS DON'T NEED NO ECO BOOSTIN'.

PFF

HE WANTS TO DO IT WITH ME ALONG? NO PROB-LEM.

LIKE I GIVE A CRAP. BOSS DOES WHAT BOSS WANTS.

GOTTA LOOK THE PART... KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

HE KNEW. PROBABLY KNEW BEFORE I DID.

THE GREAT ONES NEVER DO.

THERE

THAT MADE US A NUMBER ONE.

BOSS WAS A NUMBER ONE...

THE HARDEST DICTATES THE LOOK.

HARD IMPLIES A LOOK..

GOTTA GO FOR MAX IMPACT. IMAGE IS EVERYTH.NG, EH?

NOT LIKE THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG WITH BEFORE... 'S JUST...

BOSS WAS HARDEST OF THE HARD.

THAT MADE US HARD. WHAT MORE DID WE NEED?

THE REST OF US... WE KNEW THE REAL THING WHEN WE SAW IT.

.....

WELL, MAYBE TSUKIOKA. BIG SURPRISE THERE.

WASN'T NO NANCY BOY STUFF INVOLVED ...

WHA...

THE GROUND... WET... RED WET...

WHO KNEW THEY'D BLEED OUT SLIPPERY?

WHO KNEW?

WATCH YOUR STEP.

HIROSHI!!

B-BOSS?

KAZUO?
WHAT...
WHAT...

RY?

II

RYUHEI!!

YOU GOTTA TALK TO ME... BOSS?

.....

HHH

HHH

H!

BOSS?

HOW...

WHO...

LITTLE MORE THAN SACKS OF FLUID ONCE PUNCTURED.

MOIST?

...MOIST

I HAD NO IDEA PEOPLE WERE SO...

HE KNEW. HE READ THE BOOK...

LYING... HE'S LYING...

HMM

.....

MOIST

YEAH. .

YOU... YOU HAD NO CHOICE. THEY WAS PLAYIN'... RIGHT?

RIGHT? THEY BOUGHT INTO THE PROGRAM.

THEY... THEY BOUGHT IN.

.....

RIGHT?

BOSS?

FUCK 'EM. WHO... WHO NEEDS 'EM.

NOT ME! THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE. NOT US! RIGHT?

SURE... SURE, BOSS... HAD TO BE. THEY NEVER WAS ALL THAT BRIGHT... HEH...

UM...

NO... I DON'T NEED THEM.

... NOT US...

!

SH-SHE WAS WITH THEM?

SHE...

DAMN STRAIGHT WE...

THAT'S... SHE...

IZUMI KANAI? IZUMI HATED US! WHY WOULD SHE--

BUT IZUMI WOULD NEVER... SHE WOULDN'T...

BROUGHT?

HIROSHI AND RYUHEI... THEY BROUGHT HER TO ME

.....

THEY THOUGHT I MIGHT ENJOY KICKING THINGS OFF WITH A "PINK PARTY."

.....

SIGH... BY FORCE.

NO! A DISTRAC-TION. RIGHT, BOSS?

PLEASE?

THEY..

DIDN'T...

BUT THEN THEY...

BUT...

HEADS, I PARTAKE OF THE OFFERING...

I OPTED TO LEAVE IT TO CHANCE.

.....

AND ONCE TURNED OVER, THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME ..

I GUESS I JUST WASN'T IN THE MOOD.

THERE ARE, AFTER ALL, MORE ATTRACTIVE GIRLS THAN IZUMI.

AS GESTURES GO... LET'S JUST SAY THEIR INTENTIONS WERE GOOD.

STILL... THEY DID MAKE THE GESTURE.

A RESPONSE OF SOME KIND WAS REQUIRED.

DIDN'T MATTER TO ME.

HE INSISTED ON FIRST TOSS.

HE THOUGHT WE WERE TOSSING FOR ORDER OF... YOU KNOW.

TAILS, I PLAY TO WIN. I EVEN ASKED HIROSHI FOR THE COIN.

HUH...

500

... AND STAND UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROGRAM.

NO!

SAY IT! SAY IT, GODDAMN YOU!

SAY IT ISN'T TRUE!!

TAILS IS TAILS, WHOEVER CALLS IT.

LAST MINUTE REVELA-TIONS SUCK.

.....

GA-HAAA

NO CHOICE BUT TO LET THEM BULLET THROUGH YOUR HEAD BEFORE THE BLACKNESS HITS.

... AND COMING AT YOU SO FAST, YOU GOT NO CHOICE.

MOSTLY 'CAUSE THE TRUTHS IN THEM ARE FINAL...

WHY DOES A GUY LIKE KAZUO HANG WITH LOSERS LIKE US?

END RESULT OF AN EARLIER COIN TOSS NONE OF US KNEW ABOUT? I'M THINKING YES.

AND HOW LITTLE BOSS EVER SAID THAT MATTERED TO ANYONE BUT HIM.

LIKE HOW LITTLE A CHANGE IN HAIRSTYLE MATTERS.

BIT LATE TO START THINKING ABOUT THINGS...

HELL, THOUGHT I WAS HARD RIGHT UP 'TIL... 'TIL I STEPPED IN...

THOUGHT I WAS HARD 'TIL I MET HIM.

WHAT DID I KNOW?

BOSS TAUGHT ME...

TAUGHT ME THE TRUE MEANING OF HARD.

TAUGHT ME TO BE CAREFUL WHAT I WISH FOR...

... I JUST MIGHT GET IT.

OH, I GET IT ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU...

THANK YOU, KAZUO KIRIYAMA. I AM IN YOUR DEBT.

HARD DON'T CARE. HARD IS COLD... DEAD SOUL COLD.

BIT LATE TO DO ME ANY GOOD, BUT I DO GET IT.

HARD... HARD DON'T SMILE.

NOW... NOW IT HITS ME...

.....

AIN'T THAT A KICK...

EVER.

NEVER... NEVER SAW BOSS... SMILE...

SO... MOIST.

CHAPTER 11: Treasure

BATTLE ROYALE

IT'S SO...
PEACEFUL.

YEAH.

PEACEFUL.

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - GIRL #4:

SAKURA OGAWAI

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #21:

KAZUHIKO YAMAMOTO

!

I'M... GRATEFUL FOR THIS, KAZ.

REALLY !!...

IT MAKES IT... LESS SCARY.

shi-ft

SURE.

.....

THAT WAS... PRETTY BAD... GUESS THEY MEAN BUSINESS...
YEAH.
.....
TO YOSHITOKI AND FUMIYO...
AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO...
.....

IT WAS, WASN'T IT? AKAMATSU AND TENDO ARE GONE, TOO.
THAT WAS AKAMATSU AND TENDO... OUTSIDE.
.....

YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT. WISHING WON'T MAKE IT SO.
!

SOME OF US ARE PLAYING. MAYBE MOST OF US...
YEAH.
NOT MOST... SOME.

... BUT SEEING YOU DIE... YOU HAVE TO PLAY, KAZ. PLAY TO WIN.

I'M ALREADY DEAD.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU DIE, KAZ! I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

THEY'LL COME FOR ME! THEY'LL COME FOR ME AND... AND...

I CAN'T! I WON'T!!

SLASH

.....

!

TOGETHER, SAKURA. ALWAYS TOGETHER. WE'RE BOTH ALREADY DEAD.

YEAH.

YEAH...

LOOK. YOU CAN SEE TOWN LIGHTS FROM HERE.

.....

LIKE STARS. .

... FAMILY THINGS.

DOING ...

.....

EACH STAR A FAMILY. EACH FAMILY DOING... THINGS.

THEY... THEY CHOOSE FAVORITES... DID YOU KNOW THAT? MY BROTHER...

GETTING READY FOR BED, TALKING ABOUT THEIR DAY, STUDYING FOR EXAMS...

HE HANDICAPS EACH... CONTESTANTS, HE CALLS THEM... HANDICAPS THEM FOR HIS FRIENDS...

WATCHING TV...

MAYBE WATCHING US... WATCHING *THE PROGRAM*...

YOU CAN'T THINK THAT. YOU CAN'T!

SAKURA.

SAKURA, DON'T

UH

UM

UH

1

DO YOU THINK ANYONE BET ON ME?

SHE WAS KILLED THE NEXT DAY.

I CAN'T HELP IT.

WON'T THEY BE DISAPPOINTED.

DID YOU KNOW... DID YOU KNOW I BET ON THE LAST PROGRAM?

I DON'T C-CAN'T

SAKURA

.....

GOD...

EVERYTHING HURTS INSIDE AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT STOP!!

I... I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING MY MIND!

GOD... LISTEN TO ME!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SAKI.

DAMN THEM ALL TO HELL!

DAMN THEM FOR DOING THIS!

KAH... OO 'RUSHI' M'...

!

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YOU... TAKEN BETTER CARE OF YOU WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE...

I'M SORRY, SAKI. I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO DO. EVER!

!!

SORRY..

SO SORRY FOR--

.....

SEE?

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

zzzkt

YOU WERE CRUSHING ME... I COULDN'T BREATHE.

STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT AND ANSWER. DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

HERE.

REMEMBER THIS?

YOU BROUGHT IT ON THE TRIP?

MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT. THE FIRST THING YOU EVER BOUGHT FOR ME.

SILLY!

IT'S A PURSE. I BRING IT EVERYWHERE. ESPECIALLY THIS ONE.

... HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO ME THAT YOUR GIFT BE PERFECT.

MORE PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT.

GIGGLE... SNARK... GIGGLE...

HEY!

SO HAP-PENS THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING FOR.

.....

WELL?

TOO ZIGGY STARDUST ?

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDER-STOOD ...

.....

THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T DECIDE.

THAT'S WHY IT TOOK SO LONG.

DO YOU REMEMBER? HOW LATE IT GOT?

AND YOU... YOU WERE NO HELP AT ALL.

BRAW-WWK!

I CRACKED UNDER THE PRESSURE. THERE NOW YOU KNOW.

I CRACKED, OKAY?

SAKURA?

OH DEEZ

HOW'S THAT?

?

YOU MUST BE BORED TO TEARS.

I'M... SO SORRY, KAZ.

!

... AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS SO BORING!

IT WAS A PRESENT FROM YOU AND... AND IT HAD TO BE SPECIAL 'CAUSE... 'CAUSE... 'CAUSE IT HAD TO BE!

AND... AND I DIDN'T WANT TO... IF MY CHOICE COST TOO MUCH...

ALL MORN-INGS?

!!

FOR YOU.

IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING TO DECIDE WHAT SHIRT TO WEAR.

LISTEN TO ME GO ON... AS IF A GUY COULD UNDERSTAND.

.....

03

BUT... I WANTED YOU TO... IT HAD TO BE SPECIAL...

...I'M SUCH AN IDIOT..

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT. I SHOULD HAVE JUST BOUGHT SOMETHING.

ANYONE CAN PULL OFF FUNCTIONAL. BUT CUTE...

DEFINITELY CUTE.

CUTE.

THEY WOULDN'T DARE! C'MON!

BUT YOU KNEW. SOMEHOW YOU KNEW.

KAZ... WE CAN'T... THE STORE'S PROB-ABLY CLOSED...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION.

... AND POINTING AT THE TWO CRAZY KIDS AND IT WAS...

KAZ! KAZ!!

AND OFF YOU WENT, YELLING AND PULLING AND EVERYONE STARING...

... AND SPECIAL.

... EMBARRASSING AND WONDERFUL AND...

.....

YEAH. I WAS.

... BECAUSE YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION AFTER ALL.

SPECIAL MOST OF ALL...

NOT WITH Y--

OH, AND KAZ? YOU'RE NOT AN IDIOT.

IT WAS ALL SPECIAL.

chk...

!

KAZ...?

SAKI! C'MON!

creak...

!

TOGETHER?

EVERY MOMENT WITH YOU, KAZ... ALL SPECIAL.

TOGETHER.

.....

YEAH.

WE CAN STILL MAKE IT!

THERE! YOU SEE?

WE CAN STILL--

NO
NO
NO
NO...

NO...

YUKIE?
YUKIE,
WHERE
ARE--

!

I WASN'T
PLAYING... I
WASN'T PLAY-
ING THE GAME!

JUMPED!
THEY
JUMPED!

JUMPED?

B-B-BUT
WE.. WE
WEREN'T...
WE
WOULDN'T..

NO!!

...SPECIAL...

ALWAYS SPECIAL WITH YOU, KAZ...

BATTLE ROYALE INDEX, I.2

DHK

The Greater East Asia Republic's public television channel, DHK is the government's primary means of dispensing information. Commonwealth law imposes strict guidelines on the network, and all programming is monitored. However, this is either unknown by the general population or ignored.

THE ORPHANAGE

A privately-operated child welfare institution in Shiroiwa. The Orphanage serves as the home for abandoned children found within the Kagawa Prefecture. Older children at The Orphanage all attend Shiroiwa Junior High, a private school. Although a public school exists in Shiroiwa it is rumored to be a self-defense army training ground, and is largely unattended.

WILD SEVEN

Shogo Kawada's cigarettes of choice. Other domestic brands include "Buster" and "High Flight."

AIRWAVE CONTRABAND

Foreign pop culture is strictly limited within the Greater East Asia Republic. Rock music, long affiliated with rebellion, has been declared illegal within the Commonwealth under the Airwave Contraband Act. Violation of this statute carries a steep penalty, however tapes, CDs, sheet music, and guitars are easily available on the Black Market. Surprisingly, government-approved electric guitars may also be purchased legally, as the state recognizes they serve a function outside of rock music. Of all restrictions within the Commonwealth, the ban on rock music may be the least effective, and has been compared to the American prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s.

CHAPTER 12: Those Who Come Forth

M-MOH.

!

.....

HUH!

'S OKAY.

I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T... AH... SORRY ABOUT DOZING OFF.

SORRY. YOU WERE...

THE JACKET SLIPPED AND I... UM...

CONSID-ERING...

OKAY.

NOT A PROBLEM.

HOW'S THE LEG?

.....

MAYBE WE SHOULD SEARCH FIRST?

SEARCH ?

I CAN WALK.

WE SHOULD FIND US A SAFE PLACE TO HOLE UP IN.

UP FOR A WALK?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONES.

FOR OTHERS NOT PLAYING THE GAME. LIKE US.

WE'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT WHILE WE HUNT DOWN SHELTER.

RIGHT!

.....

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, OKAY?

OKAY.

JUST REMEMBER... SOME ARE PROBABLY PLAYING.

BEFORE WE SING OUT, LET'S BE SURE THEY'RE NOT PLAYING.

RIGHT!

!!

!!

STAY BACK!

SHU?

SHU, DON'T...

PLEASE NOT YET...

NOT YET...

A FRIEND... PLEASE, DEAR GOD, LET IT BE A FRIEND...

MROW...

MAKOMMM

pad

pad

pad

pad

PREE PREE...

HSST- FSST!

!

!

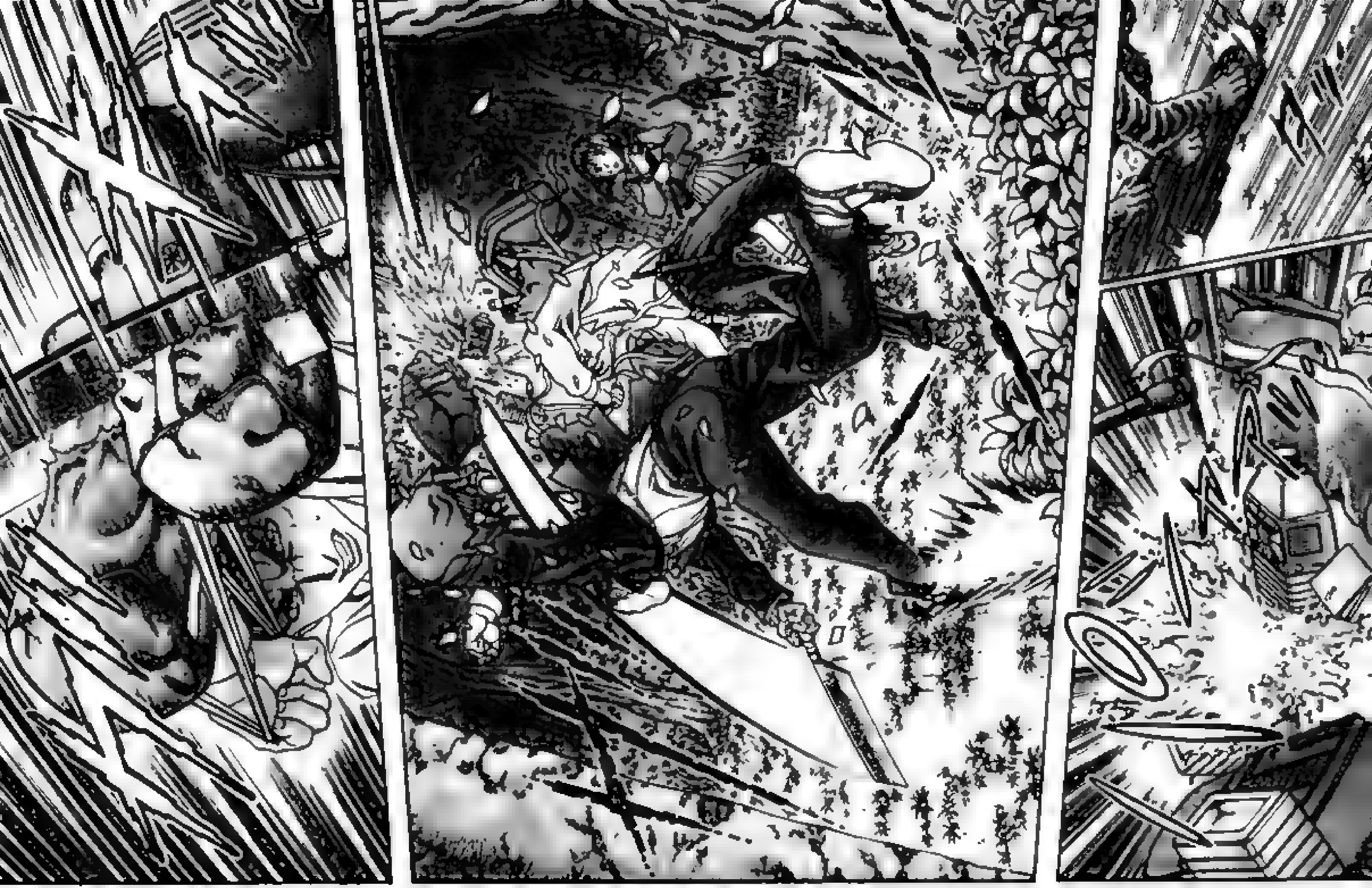
ISN'T HE CUTE?

ISN'T HE JUST THE CUTEST THING?

AND HE'S DECIDED HE WANTS YOU TO HIMSELF.

LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE A NEW FRIEND.

!!



YOU'RE THE NEW KID. TATSUMICHI, RIGHT?
TATSUMICHI?
!

YOU'RE SAFE WITH US. WE'RE NOT PLAYING!
IT'S OKAY! WE'RE NOT PLAYING!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY!

THIS...

BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA PLAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO EITHER.

IT'S OKAY... YOU WERE SCARED, RIGHT?

WE CAN BEAT THIS! TOGETHER! TEAMWORK, RIGHT?

... IF NO ONE KILLS.

NO ONE DIES...

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THEIR WAY!

REMEMBER HOW WE RANKED ON THEM?

LIKE THE TIME WE KICKED CLASS A DRAGONFLY BUTT.

WE DID IT THEN, WE CAN DO IT NOW.

TEAM WORK, TATSUMICHI.

TWO WEEKS IN A NEW SCHOOL AND ALREADY A CHAMPION.

WHADDAYA SAY?

.....

SO VERY... GLAD.

... SO GLAD, SHUUYA.

I'M...

GLAD YOU'RE WITH US, TATSUMICHI.

THAT MAKES THREE OF US.

!

!

SO VERY GLAD YOUR PUNY ARMY KNIFE...

... IS NO MATCH FOR MY MACHETE.

SO VERY, VERY GLAD...

OH... SHIT...

!

!

NORIKO! RUN!

NEW KID TAKES IT ALL! NEW KID TAKES IT ALL!

GYAH ..

FIRST BLOOD! HAI!

SHUNYA!

ドガッ!!

ザッ!!

!!

I WIN!
I WIN!!

!

GRH!

HUH!

!

HUH!!

SHUUYA!!

.....

TATSUMICHI!

HUH!

H-HNGH

GRRR

GRRR

AH...

!

VOLF

TATSU...

WHY?

AH!

HAAA...

EZZZZ...

WHY?! WHY ARE THEY PLAYING?!

WHY IS EVERYONE PLAYING?!

IT'S NOT A GAME!

WE'RE DYING OUT HERE!

IT'S NOT A GAME, GODDAMN IT!

KILLING! KILLING IS NOT A GAME!

AND NOW HE'S... HE'S... IT'S NOT A FUCKING GAME!!

WE... WE RANKED ON THE DRAGONFLIES...

NOT...

NOT A GAME...

NORIKO!

SHE'S ALONE UP THERE!

.....

SOB... SOB... OB...

LIVE UP TO IT.

PULL IT TOGETHER, SHU... YOU MADE HER YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY.

!

KYOICHI
...

SHHH
HHH-
UUU-
UUYA
...

!?

U

KYO...
DON'T...

MY FATHER... A BIG MAN, MY FATHER... BIG, BIG, BIG...

NOTH--

NOTHING LESS THAN A WIN FOR THE BIG MAN, EH? CLASS PRESIDENT TAKES IT ALL, EH?

NO FAGGOTS! NO FAGGOTS FOR THE BIG MAN!

I... KYO...

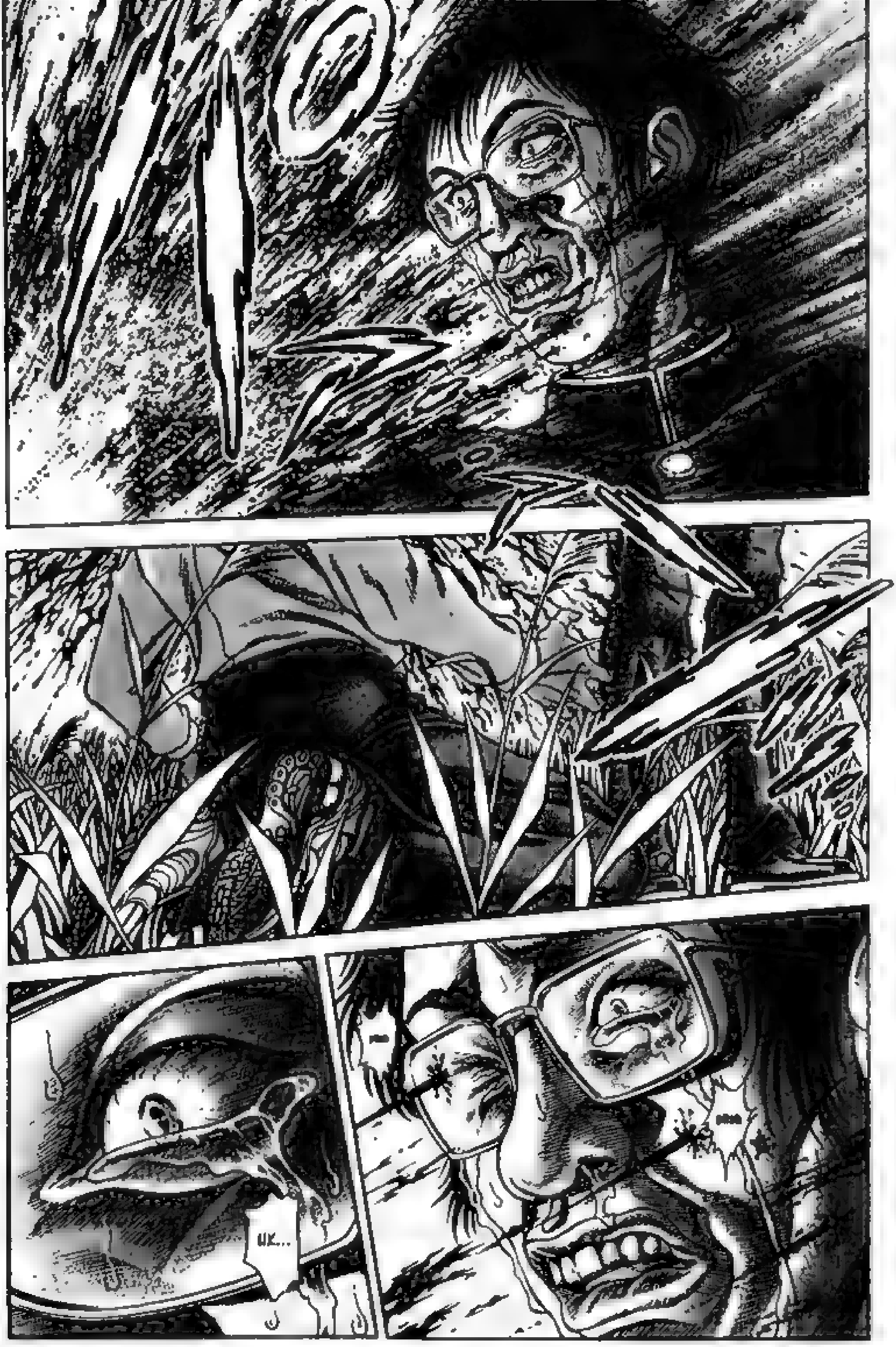
I NEVER BELIEVED ...

SHOULD HAVE! SHOULD HAVE, SHUUYA! IT'S WHY I'M HERE!

THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE THIS! THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO PLAY!

I DON'T CARE WHY YOU'RE HERE!

I DON'T CARE WHY ANY OF US ARE HERE! WE ARE!


UH...
HNN

!

KA...

NNNNNN-
GYAHHHH!!
SHUUVA
!!

!!

CHAPTER 13: Shogo Kawada

.....

KAWADA!

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #5:

SHOGO KAWADA

MINE!

CHEATER! NO FAIR SNEAKING UP!

CHEATER!

!

GOT TO!

AHH... AH SHIT!

KYO..

MINE! MINE! MINE!

KYO! NO!

WIN FOR THE BIG MAN!

YOU MOVE, I SHOOT.

WE CLEAR?

WELL?

THEN DON'T MAKE ME.

DON'T

KYOICHI!

FREEZE! HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!

KYOICHI!!

.....

H-H-H-H

ARE YOU?

DOES THIS MEAN... YOU'RE NOT PLAYING?

.....

C-CLEAR.

NO.

I... NO.

YOU BRING-ING?

YOU BRING IT TO ME, I PLAY.

!!

HOW LONG... !

YOU'VE BEEN.

WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK?

ALL THAT ABOUT TEAM WORK 'N ALL? YOU MEAN IT?

BEFORE. ABOUT NOT PLAYING?

YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAID?

.....

THEN YOU KNOW! YOU KNOW I MEAN IT!

YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON US?

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAID ABOUT TEAM-WORK?!

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WON'T PLAY?!

THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I WASN'T SPYING ON ANY-ONE!

FREEZE, DAMMIT!

WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP SOONER? TATSUMICHI! TOGETHER WE COULD HAVE--

THEN... OTHERS MIGHT HAVE...

UM...

VOICES CARRY OUT HERE.

IDIOT.

.....

.....

GOTCHA, HUH?

EH?

SHIT...

!!

OMIGOO! HOW MANY OTHERS HEARD? HOW MANY--

SHUUYA

NORIKO!!

!

SHE'S NOT PLAYING EITHER!

DON'T! SHE'S WITH ME!

!!

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!

WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME CLASS!

OF COURSE YOU KNOW HER!

I KNOW HER. NORIKO, RIGHT?

I...

!!

NEXT ONE HEARS YOU'S LIABLE TO BE PLAYING.

STOP YELLING.

!

.....

HOW YOU FIGURE TEAMWORK'S GONNA GET YOU ANYTHING BUT DEAD?

ONLY ONE SURVIVES.

HOW YOU FIGURE?

RULES SAY KILL OR BE KILLED. ONLY ONE SURVIVES.

!

I TRUST SHUUYA TO DO RIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU? IF YOU GET THAT FAR.

.....

YEAH. TOGETHER

WE CAN SHOW EVERYONE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY! TOGETHER!

WE CAN DO THIS! TOGETHER WE CAN GET OFF THIS ISLAND!

YOU'D END UP WANTED CRIMINALS.

EVEN IF ESCAPE WERE POSSIBLE, WHICH IT'S NOT...

WHAT KIND OF CRAP HAVE YOU BEEN FEEDING HER?

WHAT?

.....

WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

FAITH.

YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST TWO TO COOK UP A SCHEME LIKE THIS?

THINK ABOUT IT.

THAT'S "WANTED," AS IN "DEAD OR ALIVE." ESCAPE IS ILLEGAL!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN --

FAITH IN ONE ANOTHER'S INTENTIONS. IN OUR ABILITY TO SEE THIS THROUGH... NO MATTER WHAT.

ESPECIALLY HERE. ESPECIALLY NOW. WE'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH.

I HAVE FAITH IN US.

KEIKO!

.....!

KEIKO!
PLEASE!

I DIDN'T KNOW!

I DIDN'T KNOW!

I'M SORRY! KEIKO!

PLEASE ...

A- HUH...

A- HUH...

I...

I TRUSTED YOU! I TRUSTED YOU TO BE THERE!

THIS TIME...

.....

I TRUSTED YOU TO BE THERE!

I CAN DO IT THIS TIME.

THIS TIME I CAN BE THERE.

KEIKO ...

HARD ENOUGH LOOKING OUT FOR OURSELVES. ADD ON A FEW AND--

THIS COMPLICATES THINGS... FOR ALL OF US.

SIGH...

!

WE CAN DO IT

WE GIVE IT A GO.

OKAY.

OKAY THEN...

OKAY...

GRUH... I AM SUCH A DOOFUS AROUND GIRLS.

THAT IS...

.....

SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO HEAR THAT.

HEY!

HEY!

THAT INCLUDES DEFENDING OURSELVES.

JUST GOT TO PLAY IT SMART.

STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY.

スッ...

KEIKO?

!

?

'LEAST THAT'S WHAT KEIKO ALWAYS SAID.

PART'A MY CHARM, EH?

.....

カサッ...

!

I'M HANGING MY... "FAITH" ON YOU, NANAHARA.

SHUUYA NANAHARA, RIGHT?

1

1

TRY NOT TO FUCK UP TOO BADLY.

OUR LIVES ARE IN EACH OTHER'S HANDS.

AND KNOW THIS NANAHARA. SOMEONE DRAWS DOWN ON ANY OF US, YOU TAKE THEM OUT.

BELIEVE IT!

BUZZ BUZZ...

IF NOT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, THEN FOR YOUR LITTLE HONEY HERE.

YOU DON'T THINK, YOU DO.

!

I...

I DON'T ...

WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M THINK-ING?

I'M THINKING I HIT A NERVE. EH?

.....

WE'RE NOT... NOT WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

NO, NO! IT'S NOT..

NU --

.....

HEAR THAT? SHE'S NOT SO FAR OFF.

LISTEN UP.

.....

UM...

I.. UM..

YOU'RE HORRI-BLE!

YOU HEARD HER. I'M "HORRIBLE." DON'T FORCE ME TO PROVE IT.

I'M NOT DYING ON ACCOUNT'A YOU NEEDING TO PLAY HERO.

YOU DECIDE TO GET CARE-LESS, I LEAVE YOU TO IT.

!

WE'RE THREE NOW... LIKE THE THREE MUSKETEERS.

DIAL DOWN THE VOLUME A NOTCH, WOULDJA?

BUT, FOR GOD'S SAKE, NANAHARA ...

YEAH...

WE CAN DO THIS, KAWADA.

GOTCHA!

C'MON. IT'S NOT SAFE OUT IN THE OPEN.

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL.

ALRIGHT !

ワンピース
対抗球技大会
ドドドド
SHUUYA !
ドドド

CHAPTER 14: Nightmare

MOST SOLID!
SOLID!

FUNNY GUY!
SINCE WHEN DOES THE GREAT AND MIGHTY MIMURA NEED ANYONE ELSE'S MOVES?
GONNA SEND A FEW OF THOSE MOVES MY WAY?
THE LADIES DO LOVE THE SHU-MAN.
SHUUU-YAH!
HEY, HEY!
RIGHT MOVES CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE, SHU.
NAME?
MIDDLE...
HEY, SLICK'S MY...
PRETTY SLICK MOVE YOU RAN ON ME.

LIKE THAT MIDAIR TWIST MOVE...

OLIE

WAY COOL!

LINED ME UP PER-FECT FOR THE BIG CHOP.

CLUB

BELIEVE IT!

DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, SHU-MAN. IT'S ALL IN THE WAY YOU PLAY.

.....

THAT WASN'T... I...

HUH...

KYO?

I PLAYED.

DID IT FOR THE OLD MAN.

BODY AND SOUL, SHUNYA! BODY AND SOUL!

IT'S ALL A GAME, SHU. EVERYONE PLAYS!

PLAY? GAME? NO! I'M... I'M NOT PLAYING!

DON'T, SHUUYA! DON'T DO IT!

!!

I'M NOT PLAYING!!

YOSH!?

DON'T

!!

DON'T WATCH HER DIE LIKE YOU WATCHED ME DIE!

A-HEH.

A-HEH..

A-HEH.

DON'T FUCK UP AGAIN!

SHUUYA!

TOO FAST, YOSHI!

IT ALL HAPPENED TOO FAST!

I...

TOO...

TOO FAST...

!!

TOO FAST... SHUUYA!!

YOSHI... I LET THEM KILL YOSHI...

I LET THEM

NIGHT NIGHT-MARE

NOT A DREAM...

NO...

JUST A DREAM

IT WAS JUST A DREAM, SHUUYA.

I FUCKED UP!

NO...

THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU TOO.

トクン…トクン…

AND HOW LONG WOULD I LAST WITHOUT YOU TO PROTECT ME?

YOU WOULD.

……

THEN WHO WOULD KEEP YOSHITOKI'S MEMORY ALIVE?

トクン…

トクン.

トクン..

……

YOU SMELLED... NICE.

……

DON'T SAY THAT! I HAVEN'T SHOWERED SINCE YESTERDAY!

CHOO!

'S OKAY

I AM A GUY.

SORRY... IT'S JUST...

!

HEAR ME OUT HERE...

I'M NO STRANGER TO THEM.

NIGHTMARES

WE MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER BAGGING YOU.

……

!!

!!

EVEN ASLEEP YOU'RE TOO LOUD.

ｸｲｯ

DEEP THINKER ...

NEVER KNOW IT TO LOOK AT HIM.

THE STUFF YOU WISH YOU COULD TAKE BACK.

GUILTY STUFF.

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN NIGHTMARES MUST BE YOUR HEAD SORTING THROUGH UNPLEASANT STUFF.

I'VE HEARD THAT DREAMS ARE THE WAY YOUR HEAD SORTS THINGS OUT...

LEARN, AND IT'S ALL RAINBOWS AND WET DREAMS...

... AS YOUR HEAD MAKING SURE THE LESSON STICKS.

THINK OF IT AS...

THAT KINDA STUFF'S NEVER PLEASANT... IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE.

WENT BACK FOR...

YOU... AHH.

.....

STOW THESE. TAT'S 'N' KYO'S.

JEEZ... LISTEN TO ME RATTLIN' ON.

IT'S COLD SWEATS AND--

DON'T..

WASTE NOT WANT NOT. DUMP EVERYTHING IN ONE BAG. EASIER TO CARRY.

Is... Is...

CAREFUL. ODDS ARE IT'S LOADED.

screet..

WHAT'S WITH THE... WHAT-EVER THAT IS?

UM... KAWADA?

THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL YOUR BASIC ALARM SYSTEM.

SIGH.. AMATEURS ...

!

THERE'S THAT WORD AGAIN, EH?

PRIMITIVE ..

BUT EFFECTIVE. TRUST ME.

SOMEONE TRIPS A STRING...

... DOWN COMES MISTER WOOD. THUDDA BUMP. NO MORE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

I'VE STRUNG OUT A TWENTY METER PERIMETER, GIVE OR TAKE.

UM...

YOU'RE PRETTY... UP ON THINGS LIKE... LIKE THIS?

OH... AND WATCH YOU DON'T TRIP IT IF YOU GOTTA OFFLOAD.

.....

UNLESS WE GOT US A TRUST ISSUE HERE?

ASK ME NO QUESTIONS, I'LL TELL YOU NO LIES.

NOTICED THAT, DID YOU?

CHECK THAT PIECE OUT. MAKE SURE IT'S CARRYING A FULL CHAMBER.

.....

!

BRUH... DON'T MIND ME. I'M JUST JERKING YOUR CHAIN.

SOMEONE STILL DOESN'T GET IT.

TSK...

.....

WHY'M I LOADING... I THOUGHT WE AGREED...

NOT TO PLAY!

HEY! BACK IT UP!

NOW YOU GOTTA BELIEVE IT.

YEAH... YOU KNOW IT...

I KNOW THAT!

... DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT PLAYING...

ONCE MORE JUST BECAUSE WE'RE NOT PLAYING...

I JUST WANT TO BE SURE WE'RE TALKIN' SELF DEFENSE HERE.

I WAS THE ONE ALMOST GOT HIS HEAD HANDED TO HIM BACK THERE.

I BELIEVE IT!

?!

TIME? FOR WHAT?!

skrkk...

'S ALMOST TIME.

DUMMY UP!

AND ONLY SELF DEFE --

AH! A QUICK REMINDER BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO IT ..

... SO I'LL TRY TO KEEP THIS BRIEF.

I KNOW HOW PRESSED YOU ALL ARE FOR TIME...

WHAT SAY WE FORGO RITUAL AND GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, EH?

RISE AND SHINE, LITTLE WAR-RIORS.

TIME FOR HOME-ROOM.

I

BASTARD!

!!

RIGHT THEN. ON TO THE DEAD. BOY NUMBER ONE; YOSHIO AKAMATSU...

!!

AKAMATSU!

HE WAS... HE WAS ALIVE WHEN WE... WE...

LEFT HIM TO DIE.

ENOUGH OF THAT!

YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM. END OF STORY.

MULTIPLE ANGLES MAKE IT THAT MUCH EASIER TO PACKAGE THE HIGHLIGHT REEL FOR DVD. YOU UNDERSTAND.

DO TRY TO LIMIT YOUR ACTIVITIES TO THOSE AREAS COVERED BY MORE THAN ONE CAMERA, IF YOU COULD.

BOY NUMBER TWENTY; KYOICHI MOTOBUCHI.

BOY NUMBER TWENTY ONE; KAZUHIKO YAMAMOTO.

BOY NUMBER TEN; RYUHEI SASAOKA.

BOY NUMBER SEVENTEEN; MITSURU NEMAI.

BOY NUMBER NINE, HIROSHI KURONAGA.

THREE, TATSUNORI OOKI.

.....

GOO

SO MANY? ALREADY SO MANY?!

A RECORD BREAKING PACE SET FROM THE START!

AND GIRL NUMBER FOURTEEN, MAYUMI TENDO.

NUMBER FIVE, IZUMI KANAI.

GIRL NUMBER FOUR; SAKURA OGAWA!

GIRL NUMBER THREE, MEGUMI ETOU

ON TO THE NOT SO GENTLER SEX

0900; F-1

EFFECTIVE FROM 0700; AREA J-2.

1100; H-8.

SIGH

.....

MOVING ON TO "RESTRICTED" AREAS... I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR PENCILS READY...

BUYS US A BIT MORE R AND R... SO TO SPEAK.

NOT US THIS TIME.

HUH!

SORRY. COULDN'T RESIST. 'TIL NEXT TIME...

BINGO!

SIGH

SQUISH.

.....

!

SOME.

YOU HEARD. THEY'RE PLAYING.

LOOK, NOT TO PULL AN "I TOLD YOU SO"...

FROM NOW ON, EVERY-ONE WE RUN ACROSS, WE ASSUME THEY'RE PLAYING.

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S YOUR FUCKING MOTHER. ASSUME SHE'S PLAYING. GOT IT?

HUH?

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - GIRL #7:

YUMIKO KUSAKA

YUMIKO!

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - GIRL #6:

YUKIKO KITANO

YUKI...

I MEAN... WILL THEY BELIEVE US AND COME?

DO YOU THINK... DO YOU THINK THIS WILL WORK? REALLY?

WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL BELIEVE US!

LIKE YOU SAID, RIGHT? GOT TO TRY.

TOGETHER, RIGHT? WE DO IT TOGETHER.

OKAY... OKAY! WE DO IT.

MAYBE... MAYBE THEY WILL COME. SURE!

IT'S OKAY, YUKI. I CAN DO IT ALONE.

NO. WE DON'T.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

OH NO! THAT'S...

OH!

DO YOU... UM...

UM...

YUMI?

DO I WHAT?

SURE THEY WILL.

SURE...

ギュッ

THIS AGAIN?

.....

DO YOU THINK SHUUYA WILL COME?

DO YOU THINK... IF... UM...

I WAS JUST...

Y'KNOW... IF ANYONE COMES... Y'KNOW?

AND?

!

I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER.

HEY, KAWADA...

.....

I WANT THAT ON THE RECORD TOO.

SPEAKING OF WHICH... I'M NOT GIVING UP HOPE.

JUST SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

NOT EVERYONE IS PLAYING. COUNT ON IT!

HE WILL. I JUST KNOW HE WILL!

LET'S FIND OUT.

LET'S FIND OUT IF HE'LL COME TOGETHER!

CHAPTER 15: Conditions

YUKI... YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PART OF --

I DON'T KNOW.

I...

WHAT IF THEY'RE PLAYING?

IF WE DO THIS... CALL OUT TO...

IF WE...

AND WHO'S TO SAY IT WON'T BE FIFTEEN DEAD?

AND HERE WE ARE.

THIRTEEN OF US ARE DEAD AND...

HUH?

I'M SORRY, YUMIKO...

I KNOW THAT! I KNOW THAT!

MAYBE I SHOULD ORDER FOR YOU.

I... THERE'S SO MUCH!

I'M ALWAYS DOING THIS TO YOU.

I'M ALWAYS IN YOUR WAY.

ALWAYS GIVING WITH A SMILE...

ALWAYS THERE WITH A HAPPY THOUGHT...

ALWAYS IN THE WAY.

.....

POOR, YUKI. SUCH A NUISANCE...

.....

!

I THINK I EVEN MADE THE SAME MISTAKES!

IT MATCHES MINE!

YUKI? YOU BAKED THIS YOURSELF?

WE ALWAYS END UP BLUSHING.

I KNOW.

.....

THERE... SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, NOW?

BEING THERE WAS ALWAYS ENOUGH, YUKI...

SIGH

I WANTED TO BE YOUR FRIEND AND... AND FRIENDS DO THINGS FOR FRIENDS--

I WANTED TO DO THOSE THINGS!

I WANTED TO!

.....

REMEMBER THAT TIME? BACK IN FOURTH GRADE?

SAY...

FOURTH GRADE?

THE BEST!

QUITE A PAIR, THE TWO OF US, EH?

YEAH...

MS. TAKATA'S HOME EC CLASS?

WHEN WE DID THE HARD BOILED EGGS?

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SITTING HERE TALKING ABOUT THIS.

YUKI? HELP?

AH! HMMM...

IT'S BECAUSE I BROKE THE SHELL, ISN'T IT?

WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?

MS. TAKATA!

NEH.

HM?

DON'T KNOW.

IT... FELT GOOD.

YOU HAD TO DEPEND ON ME THAT TIME. REMEMBER?

HERE. SEE? IF YOU USE CHOPSTICKS..

THE YOLKS WON'T HARDEN UNEVEN.

WAY COOL...

A VERY GOOD TEAM.

YOU TWO MAKE A GOOD TEAM.

OH MY. THESE ARE SO APPETIZ-ING!

OH...

AH. JIM.

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW HELPING ME MESSED YOU UP.

OUCH...

NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED, EH?

GEEZ. NOT TOO AWKWARD HERE

A LITTLE LESS TIME BOILING. SEE HOW YUMIKO'S YOLKS ARE BRIGHTER?

ONE THING THOUGH... YUKIKO?

HMM.

!

!

DON'T. THAT'S NOT WHY I BROUGHT IT UP.

COOKING'S ALL I'VE EVER BEEN BETTER AT, THE ONLY THING YOU NEEDED MY HELP WITH.

STUPID, I KNOW, BUT THAT'S THE WAY I FELT AT THE TIME.

I THOUGHT I'D... I DUNNO... HELPED YOU PASS ME...

DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE? GOD, I WAS SUCH A DWEEB!

OH MY...

I DIDN'T MEAN... OH MY...

YUMI? YUMIKO?

I-IT'S NOT... UM...

YOU SCREWED UP OUR GETAWAY BEFORE WE EVEN GOT IN!

NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

SHU...

CHECK IT OUT, YOSHITOKI! WAY GOOO!

EEE!!!

EEE!!!

OH MY!

OH...

ACTUALLY YUKIKO

UM...

!

YUKI, YUMI, THESE ARE YOURS?

THESE ARE SO GREAT!

I DON'T CARE.

YOSHITOKI CHOOSES SHUUYA! CHANGE! COMBINE!

SHUUYA CHOOSES YOSHITOKI! EVIL BEWARE!

YUKI AND YUMI ARE LIKE ME AND YOSHI.

!

TOGETHER WE ARE INVINCIBLE! EVIL BEWARE!

KARATE MASTER HIROSHI AND GENIUS SCIENTIST TAKESHI... ALONE WE ARE STRONG!

BARON SONO IS SO COOL..

WELL NOW, AREN'T YOU TWO SOMETHING?

WELL...

HM...

ALL THAT JUST TO POINT OUT THEY'RE AN ODD COUPLE? YEESH!

OKAY... ARE WE EMBAR-RASSED ENOUGH YET?

JUST LIKE ME AND YOSHI.

YEAH... EXCEPT FOR BEING GIRLS...

!

EHM..

LOG 090

WE SCORED A DOUBLE BLUSH ON THE ODD COUPLE!

YOSH!! CHECK IT OUT!

BACK THEN I WAS... KINDA AFRAID OF BOYS.

PRETTY STUPID, HUH?

YEAH... V'KNOW...

.....

ONE FROM TWO. THEY WERE SO CUTE!

BARON GONG!

.....

GIGGLE

IT WAS FUNNY... AND FUN AND...

THEN WITH SHUUYA AND YOSHI... IT WAS LIKE...

THEY WERE...

SO LOUD... ALWAYS FIGHTING AND...

CHANGE! COMBINE!! GO! GO! BARON GONG BATTLE!

MADE MORE AWESOME WHEN WE...

HA! TWO COMBINE TO MAKE A STRONGER ONE! BARON GONG POWER!

I AM RENEWED!

SHUUUYA! YOU'LL GET US BOTH KEPT AFTER SCHOOL!

?!

?!

NO!!!

LIKE US?!

?

I HAVE THE POWER OF TWO! JUST LIKE YUMI AND YUKI!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, NO ONE KEEPS BARON GONG AFTER SCHOOL!

THEN WE CAN LEAVE?

AHHH... UM...

BARON GONG POWER!

LET'S SHOW THEM HOW IT'S DONE!

COME ON, LOYAL SIDE-KICK! UP HERE WITH ME!

THAT'S THE SHADOW!

WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE--

UH...

BARON GONG PLEDGE! GO! GO! YOSHITOKI!

AH...

TEAM UP TO FIGHT EVIL!

HE WAS SPYING ON US?

MAYBE HE SAW HOW UPSET YOU WERE.

.....

I MEAN... ALL THAT OVER A HARD BOILED EGG?

CRAZY, SURE... THEY ARE BOYS, Y'KNOW?

NOT SCARY AT ALL.

NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO BE SAD WITH SHUUYA AROUND.

SHUUYA ALWAYS HAD HIS ANTENNAE OUT...

NOT LIKE THAT! YOU KNOW...

I LIKE TO THINK... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT WHOLE "ONE FROM TWO" BIT... MAYBE HE SAW WE NEEDED TO HEAR IT.

ONE ODD COUPLE TO ANOTHER.

YEAH.

.....

YEAH. ME TOO.

ODD COUPLE TO ODD COUPLE...

YUKI?

LIKE SHUUYA AND YOSHI! RIGHT?

TOGETHER! LIKE BARON GONG!

LET'S DO IT LET'S CALL THEM ALL!

LET'S ...

キュッ..

!

スッ..

TOGETHER. ODD COUPLE TO ODD COUPLE.

CHANGE... COMBINE. RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN PRE-TEND TO BE BRAVE

JUST A LITTLE LONGER, YUKI...

ODD COUPLE TO ODD COUPLE.

JUST... LET'S HURRY. OKAY?

JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

!

ESCAPE AN OPTION?

YEAH?

.....

.....

IT'S PROBABLY GONNA COME TO THAT. BEST BE READY.

CUT 'N RUN?

JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOU SAY IT.

OKAY.

.....

CONSIDER IT SAID!

HM!

THAT DOESN'T...

JUST BECAUSE I REFUSE TO PLAY...

FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THESE COLLARS, SEE HOW FAST I BOOK!

HOW STUPID DO I LOOK, KAWADA?

NOTHING IS EVER 100 PERCENT. NOT EVEN THIS GAME.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY!

.....

.....

EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

THE COLLARS... YOU CALLED IT. DITCH THE COLLARS AND...

YOU MAY HAVE A POINT.

.....

.....

.....

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING OVER-LOOKED! ALWAYS!

!

!

THEN AGAIN... YOU MAY NOT.

HUH.

.....

.....

BIG HELP THERE, ACE.

THAT THERE IS A WAY OFF THIS ISLAND.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THERE IS A WAY.

HUH!

LESS VOLUME, DAMMIT!

SWEAR TO GOD THAT BIG MOUTH OF YOURS WILL GET US ALL KILLED!

A WAY?! WHERE?! HOW?!

GO ON.

... THERE'S TWO THINGS I GOTTA HEAR.

BEFORE I SAY ANY MORE...

EVERYBODY! PLEASE LISTEN!

A-HEM

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!

!!

!!

!!

YUMI AND YUKI!

AND YUKIKO!

YUMIKO?

WHO.

.....

ポロロ...♪

WE'RE NOT ALONE!

WHAT'D I TELL YOU? HAH?

ALRIGHT!

LISTEN TO US! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!

JOIN US!

JOIN US AT THE HILLTOP LOOKOUT!

AUGH!!

NO! WE CAN'T LET THEM--

IDIOTS! ALL THEY'RE DOING...

THEY'RE SITTING DUCKS UP THERE!

THEY'RE AN EASY OUT FOR WHOEVER GETS THERE FIRST!

DIE UP THERE WITH THEM?!

GOT TO WHAT?!

LET GO! WE'VE GOT TO --

NOT IF WE GET THERE FIRST! WE CAN--

!!

HOPE THAT WHOEVER TAKES THEM OUT DOESN'T TUMBLE TO US DOWN HERE.

END OF DISCUSSION.

WE CAN LAY LOW AND HOPE.

THEN WHAT? JUST STEP OVER THE CORPSES AS WE LEAVE?!

LET EVERY-ONE ELSE DIE WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER TO HELP?!

THAT'S BULL-SHIT!

IS THIS PART OF THE BIG ESCAPE SECRET?

THAT'S...

.....

WHAT DOES THAT MAKE US, KAWADA?! WHAT DOES THAT MAKE US?!

CHAPTER 16: The Right Thing To Do

HOW'S THAT MAKE US ANY BETTER THAN... THAN...

HOW'S THAT BETTER THAN PLAYING?!

JOIN US AT THE LOOK-OUT!

JOIN US HERE!

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT!

EVERYONE DIES AND WE WALK!

DAMMIT, KAWADA!

THAT MAYBE THEY'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT?!

EVER THINK THEY DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER?!

LINE?

BUT DRAWING UNWANTED ATTENTION? THAT'S WHERE WE DRAW THE LINE!

ANYONE WHO WANTS CAN JOIN US. ANYONE!

WILL YOU SHUT UP AND LISTEN?!

WE DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!

HOW MANY MORE TIMES YOU GOTTA BE AMBUSHED?

DIDN'T KYOICHI AND TATSU TEACH YOU ANY-THING?!

THERE'S A LOT OF OPEN FIELD BETWEEN HERE AND THAT LOOKOUT.

HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU THINKING STRAIGHT?

HUH

YOU THINK THEY'D BE UP THERE ANNOUNCING THEIR LOCATION IF THEY WERE THINKING STRAIGHT?!

OF COURSE THEY'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT!

!!

BUT YOU WILL NOT TAKE US WITH YOU!

NOW... YOU THINKING STRAIGHT?

YOU WANT TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY... FINE!

!

..KAWADA?

HEAD COULD USE AN OVERHAULING, THOUGH...

TELL YA, SHU... YOUR HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

TELL YA...

BUT...

THEY...

WE CAN FIND A BETTER WAY!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

WE... WE CAN'T JUST... KAWADA...

ch-click!

... NOT SMART...

DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T. FILE THIS UNDER...

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO DAMN ALL!

!!

!!

HIGH-TAIL IT!

I...

HIGH TAIL IT OUTTA THERE.

TAKE THE HINT, LADIES. THAT WAS A GUNSHOT...

SPOOK THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!

I GET IT...

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS! WE KNOW YOU DON'T!

PLEASE! STOP SHOOTING! LISTEN TO US!

C'MON...

.....

BOLT! RUN! GET OUT OF THERE!

.....

PLEASE LISTEN..

FIRE AGAIN!

IT DIDN'T WORK!

!

OH!

.....

B-BUT...

TWICE? NOT AN OPTION.

ANOTHER SHOT AND OUR POSITION IS BROADCAST. ONCE WAS RISKY...

I DON'T DO SUI-CIDE.

.....

SHIT...

.....

WE KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!

WE KNOW YOU ALL!

TOGETHER WE CAN FIND A BETTER WAY!

BARON GONG! CHANGE! COMBINE!

YEAH!

THIS IS HIM, RIGHT?

LOOK!

YUMI...

YUKI...

?

!

NO... I CAN'T... I WON'T ACCEPT THAT.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET THROUGH TO YOU?!

THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD.

SHU...

WHAT?!

BARON GONG... CHANGE. COMBINE.

.....

I'M GOING TO PULL THEM OUT OF THERE. SEE IF I DON'T.

ALL I'VE DONE IS TALK ABOUT IT. THEY'RE TRYING TO DO IT.

GOD DAMN IT, SHUUYA...

I... I'LL GO WITH YOU.

GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY... IT'S WHAT I'D DO.

I'M... I'M GOING TO TRY...

BECAUSE... IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

BECAUSE WHAT THEY'RE DOING... THE RISK THEY'RE TAKING...

!!

!!

NO! NOT YET! NOT NOW!

WH...

RAT TAT TAT TAT...

RAT TAT TAT TAT TAT...

FIFTEEN.

FIFTEEN DEAD NOW.

RAT-A-FUCK-ING-TAT...

HK-UK-KK...

SOME.. SOMEONE CAME, YUMI..

!

YUMI...

HGH...

HG-HRAH!

YUMI?

NOT SHUUYA.. NO... NO...

NO... NOT...

I OON'T. DON'T THINK IT WAS SHUUYA...

SHUUYA ..

I DON'T THINK...

I WAS SCARED ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.

REMEMBER?

NO. I'M THE 'FRAIDY CAT.

SO SORRY, YUKI. I... I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE... SCARED...

STUPID IDEA...

STUPID...

NO...
NO
NO
NO...

NOT WITHOUT ME! NOT WITHOUT --

YUMI? YUMI?!

YEH...

SCARED OF CAT

YEH...

NO!

OH...

TOGETHER! ALWAYS TOGETHER!

NO!!

COME BACK!

A-
HEH...

NOT
WITHOUT
ME!!

SORRY...

!

SO...
SOR...

NOT...
WITHOUT
ME!

THAT .. THAT
WOULD HAVE...

SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
SHUUYA...

SHU...

SHUUYA

SHOULD
HAVE...

YUKI.

SHOULD
HAVE
BEEN ..

... SO NICE IF... SHUUYA HAD... HAD COME...

SHUUYA ...

YOU COULDN'T KNOW

I...

.....

I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T...

BETTER?

A-AH! HURTS!

DON'T LEAVE ME... DON'T YOU DARE!

JUST... JUST DON'T!

'S OKAY.

!

OH... YOU... YOU'RE BLEEDING...

A LITTLE...

RIGHT? LOOK AT US... WE EVEN... EVEN BLEED TOGETHER.

WE'LL GO TOGETHER. ALWAYS TOGETHER.

WE'LL ...

YUMI...? YUMIKO?

THE ODD COUPLE.

RIGHT?

SHUUYA.

THAT'S US ALRIGHT ...

YEAH.

HK!

.....

SHU?

NNNNNNOO OOOOOO !!

CURRENT STUDENT TALLY: 15 DEAD 27 SURVIVORS

NGHH...

BLAM!

MOSTLY BECAUSE THAT'S ME I'M LOOKING AT. YOUNGER, BUT STILL ME.

HMM...

EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE DREAMS WHERE YOU KNOW YOU'RE DREAMING?

LIKE NOW... I KNOW I'M DREAMING THIS.

THERE I GO AGAIN. MISS INDECISION.

IT'S JUST... EVERYTHING LOOKS SO...

OH! UM...

HMPH...

ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS CUTER THAN THAT. GO FIGURE.

YOU GONNA BE AT IT ALL DAY?

NORIKO!

DAMMIT! I WAS CUTER THAN THAT!

GOOD

SIDE STORY: Energy

SCHOOL SPIRIT AND ALL THAT, DONCHA KNOW.

GRIN AND BEAR IT.

HOWCUMZIT WE ALLUS GOTTA COME OUT 'N CHEER 'N STUFF?

HOW COME ...

ARE WE WINNING?

SO...

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. IT'S THE AMERICAN NATIONAL PASTIME, TOO.

AMERICAN GIRLS ARE SUFFERING, TOO.

UH HUH...

BASEBALL. *OUR* NATIONAL PASTIME. LUCKY US.

...YOU GET TO EYEBALL MIMURA IN SHORTS.

AT LEAST WITH BASKETBALL ...

I WISH IT WAS BASKETBALL SEASON.

DO WE CARE?

"BY PITCHA, PITCHA- AAA

GOT IT.

GOT IT?

THEY'RE WEARING KNICKERS!

I MEAN, COME ON!

.....

.....

!!

COACH SAYS YOU'RE CUT IF WE LOSE THIS ONE.

AAH.

.....

BAD NEWS FROM THE BENCH. NOT GOOD.

.....

!

!!

EASY OUT! LET'S GO! WHIFF HIM!

LET'S WIN THIS SUCKER BEFORE WE ALL GET HEAT STROKE.

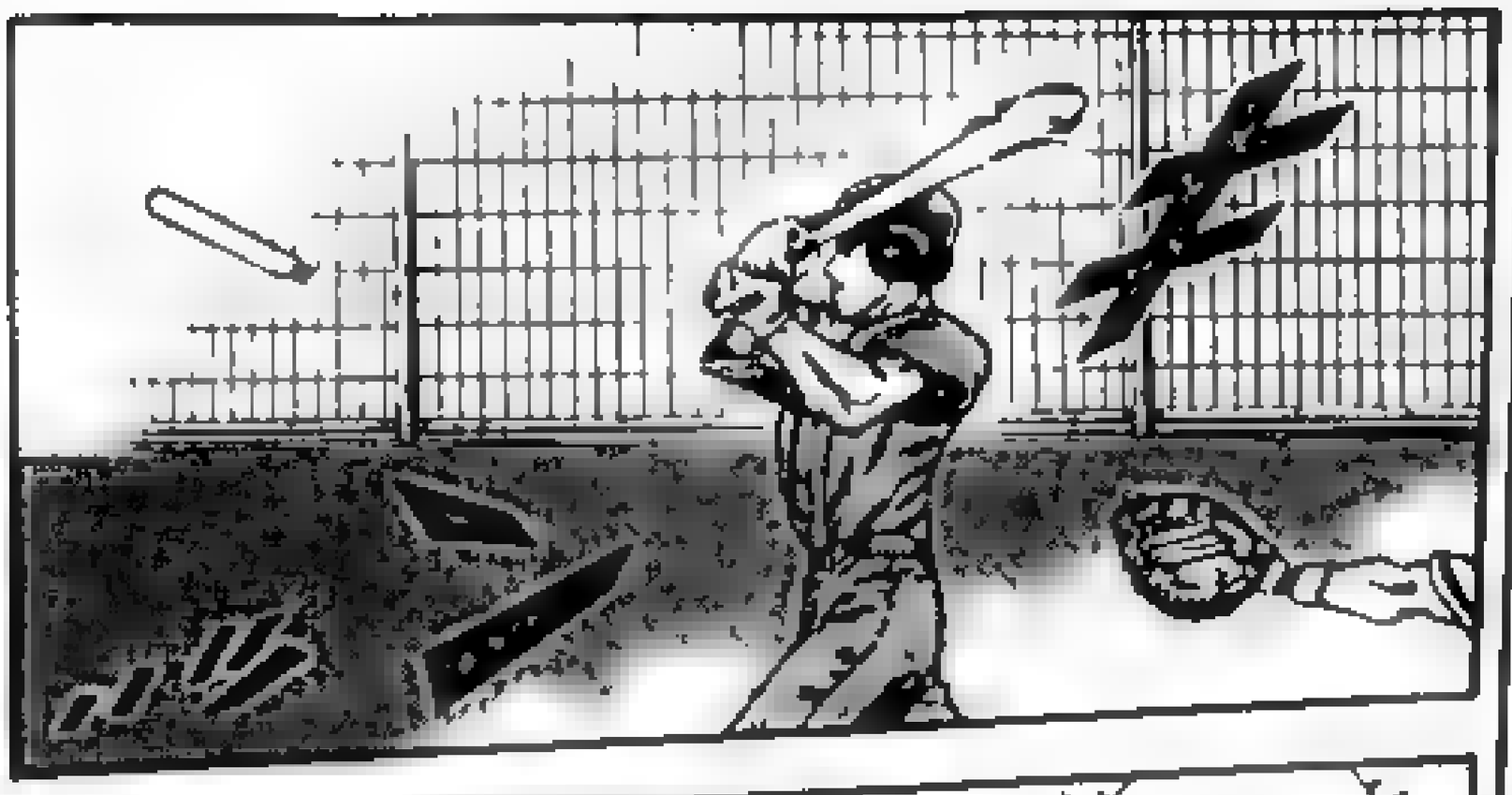
WHAT YOU WAITING FOR?

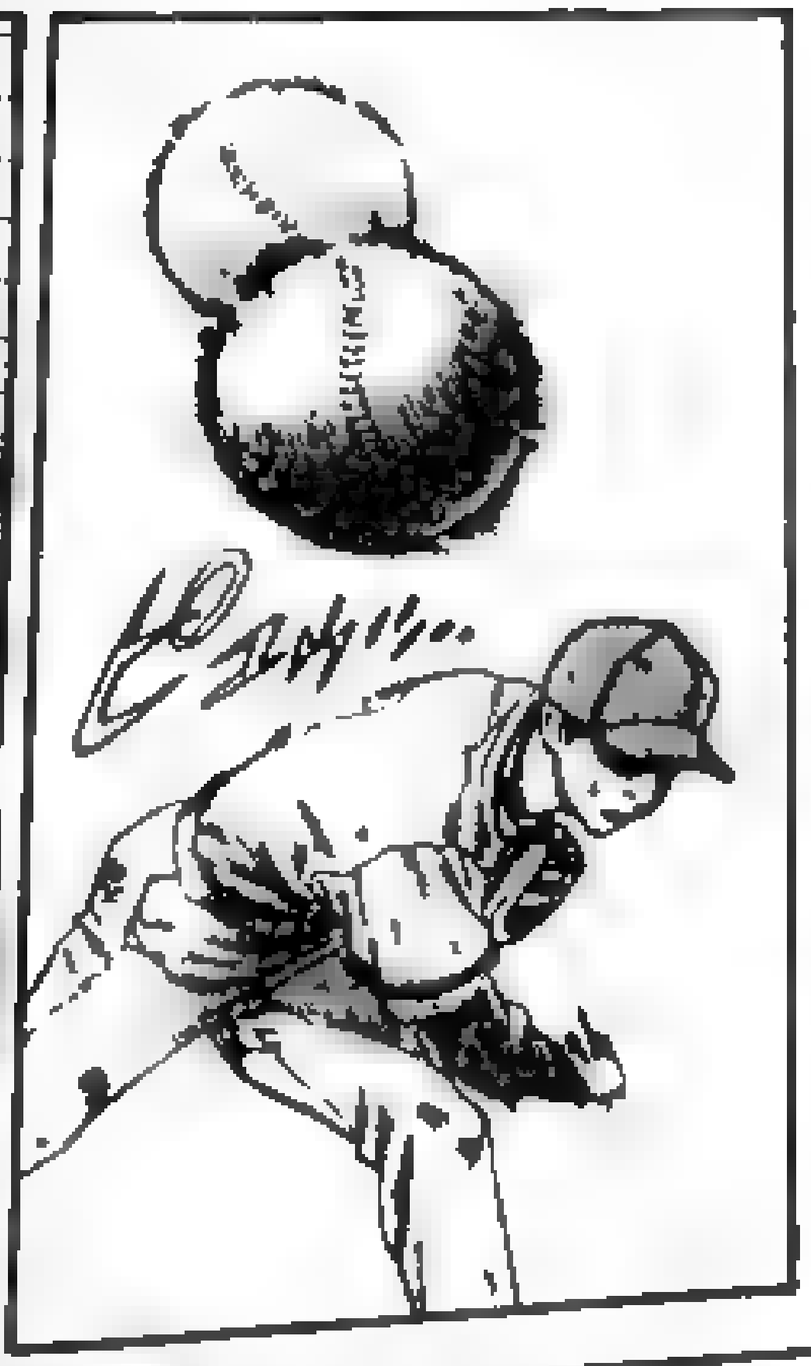
BASES LOADED, NO ONE DOWN, BOTTOM OF THE NINTH...

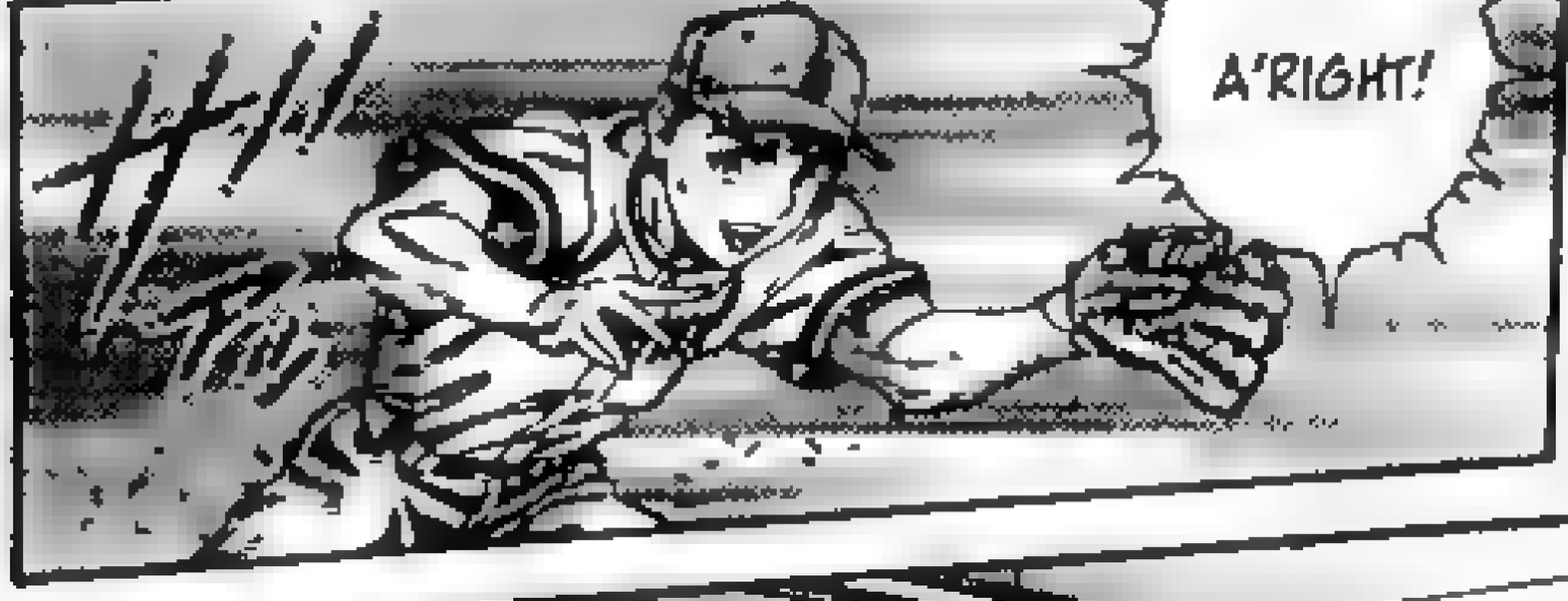
HUH!

HOT AS HELL OUT HERE...

YEH...






A'RIGHT!

THAT'S ONE!
!!

THAT'S TWO!

INCOMING!!

AND THREE!

SWEET CATCH!

PIECE'A CAKE!

THAT'S THE GAME!

WHO'S THE NEW KID?

HUH!

!

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

AND ME.

HMM...

OH... MY... GOD...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY SAID THAT!

DOKI DOKI

THAT'S SHUUYA NANAHARA.

GEEZ, NORIKO. YOU GOTTA GET OUT MORE.

NOT ALL THAT NEW.

THERE'S NOT A GIRL IN SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM. ME INCLUDED.

SIGH... HOW COME EVERYONE IN MY DREAMS LOOKS BETTER THAN ME?!

HE WON THE GAME! HOW'S HE OFF THE TEAM?!

OFF THE TEAM?!

NOW SHUUYA... SHUUYA CAN NEVER LOOK TOO GOOD.

HE LOVES THE GAME AS MUCH AS ANY OF US!

THIS IS SO UNFAIR!

.....

SHUUYA?

.....

END OF STORY. HE'S CUT. PERIOD.

HE PUT US IN A HOLE. YOU DUG US OUT.

BUT...

YOU DID.

BUT...

HE DIDN'T WIN THE GAME.

YOU ABOUT DONE?

THAT IS SUCH A LOAD!

.....

WINNING IS ALL THERE IS! LOSERS STAY LOSERS!

YOU WATCH THAT TONGUE, BOY.

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN WINNING!

THAT'S BULLSHIT!

YOU KNOW HIM?

KID OVER THERE DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE...

'S THAT NANAHARA KID, AIN'T IT?

WONDERFUL

YO!

WE BUNK TOGETHER AT THE ORPHA... UH... HOME.

YEAH...

HE'LL WIND UP RED CHECKED ON HIS PERMANENT RECORD.

HE KEEPS IT UP, NOT ONLY'S HE GONNA GET CUT...

.....

.....

DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DOES HE?

SHEE...

YOU THINK?

HE DOESN'T CARE.

.....

HE DOES WHAT HE THINKS IS RIGHT. CONSEQUENCES BE DAMNED.

I KNOW. SHUUYA... HE...

JOIN HIM THEN! YOU ARE SO CUT, NANAHARA!

GOOD TO KNOW...

REALLY ?

.....

OH... HEY, SHU...

!

HEY! HOLD UP A SEC!

THEIR WAY'S NO DAMN FUN ANYHOW.

WE DON'T NEED THEM TO PLAY BALL.

SCREW 'EM!

DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.

HE'S CRAZY!

GOOD CRAZY!

NO PERFORMANCE BULLSHIT, JUST BASEBALL, CLEAN AND SIMPLE!

YOU KNOW. OUR OWN TEAM.

WHAT SAY WE START OUR OWN?

.....

.....

WHAT?

YEAH... RIGHT...

.....

NEITHER DO YOU.

WISE UP, NANAHARA. STOP BUCKING THE SYSTEM.

I GOT HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY EXAMS NEXT YEAR.

I DON'T NEED THIS, OKAY?

I DON'T NEED NO TROUBLE.

THAT WAS SO UNFAIR! SHUUYA... HE...

SHUUYA ...

HOW COME I CAN ONLY REMEM-BER SAD DREAMS?!

THAT'S ANOTHER THING...

SIGH...

.....

MIMURA... WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?

OH.. I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW

SHU'S SKIN'S THICK ENOUGH. HE'LL GET OVER IT

GONNA BUCK THE SYSTEM, BEST GROW THICK SKIN.

HE STILL PLAYING MARTYR?

PLAY!

PLAY!

NOW!

HRM ...

BOREDOM, FOR THE MOST PART.

TOO MUCH TIME AND TOO LITTLE TO FILL IT.

!

.....

!

EXCUSE ME?

UM...

AGH!

I SOUND LIKE A JERK!

SHU... HUH! HERE...

THEY WANTED ME TO... IS, UM...

SOME OF THE GIRLS... WE HEARD SHUUUYA GOT CUT AND...

WELL, UM

IS HE OKAY?

IS THIS WHERE SHUUUYA NANAHARA LIVES?

HI... UM...

HE'S OUT BACK WORKING ON HIS TAN.

THAT OR HE'S DEAD.

THE "GIRLS," EH?

SHULYA?

.....

TOTAL DIS-CONNECT. TOTAL!

WOY

*T..

*T..

THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMMED UP SUMMER BREAK.

BARELY SHUUYA..

SHHH-KT

HEY! YOU ARE NOW LISTEN-ING TO PIRATE RADIO, HOME OF THE ROCK 'N' ROLL RESISTANCE!

WAITING FOR SHU TO SNAP OUT OF IT.

THAT'S HOW IT STARTED.

HANGING WITH YOSHI AND MIM.

NO WAY!

NO WAY THAT'S ARMADA!

ALLLL THE BEST ROCK 'N' ROLLERS ARE OUT-LAWS! LISTEN 'N' LEARN!

GUESS NO ONE EVER SAW FIT TO LAY IT OUT STRAIGHT FOR HIM...

BIG BROTHER MAY HAVE OUTLAWED ROCK 'N' ROLL, YES HE DID, MY PEEPS, MY PEEPS...

WHO?

UM...

WHO'S THIS?

JUST LISTEN.

TIL I FIND OUT

WAY COOL... HUH...

!?

UNBE-FUCKING-LIEVABLE!

WAY COOL!!

We'll find our place, our promised land, I know we'll find the way...

To push past the pain they're giving, no longer play their game...

And find a life worth living. Tell me that you feel the same...

... No need to fear, nothing they can do...

Will ever taint the love I feel within my heart for you...

Can't tell you where, can't tell you when, but there will come a day...

I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT!

THE MUSIC IS THE MESSAGE! LONG LIVE THE ROCK 'N' ROLL RESIST-ANCE!

SIGH...

HEY! WHO'S THE CHICK?

WHAT? TOO SHO-DEN?

SEEN YOU PLAY, MAN. YOU GOT ALL THE RIGHT MOVES!

AREN'T YOU SHINJI MIMURA? HOOP KING M.MURA?

UH HUH.

AND NOT ALL RESTRICTED TO THE BEE-BALL COURT.

WELCOME BACK.

YOU REALLY WERE OUT OF IT.

TOOK YOU THIS LONG TO NOTICE HER?

UM...

SHUUYA'S FOUND HIS CALLING. LET'S HEAR THAT GUITAR TALK, M'MAN!

ISN'T IT OB-VIOUS?

SHUUYA, WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE?

NORIKO. I... UM...

THE "CHICK" HAS A NAME.

HEL-LO!

STOP STARING AT THEM, YOU IDIOT!

VERY FUNNY

.....

SAY IN A YEAR OR TWO? OR MORE...

TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THAT?

THAT'S. AHH..

EVERYONE STARTS SOMEWHERE. I JUST GOTTA PRACTICE AT IT.

BUT NOT A PROB-LEM.

YOU WANT TO BECOME A ROCK STAR...

IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS OUTLAWED ROCK 'N' ROLL.

OKAY... LET'S SEE..

.....

WITH ME MANAGING YOU, 'NATCH.

I SAY GO FOR IT!

SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN THE EASY WAY?

!

.....

I NEVER SAID IT'D BE EASY...

WELL... YEAH.

well...

THEN YOU JUST BOUNCE BACK LIKE... LIKE... I WISH I HAD YOUR SPIRIT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CHANGE IN YOU!

WE THOUGHT YOU'D GIVEN UP ON... ON EVERYTHING!

I THINK YOU SHOULD .. UM.. GO FOR IT?

UM... THAT IS... AH...

!

OH!

I NEVER SAID I WAS--

THREE? NOW WAITA-MINNIT

JUST GO WITH IT!

HELL, I JUST STARTED AND ALREADY I GOT THREE FANS!

GONNA MAKE IT HAPPEN, GONNA ROCK!

DAMN STRAIGHT!

DAMN STRAIGHT, GO WITH IT!

IT'S HARD TO BE SAD AROUND SHU... EVEN IN A DREAM...

OKAY.. NOT A SAD DREAM

I JUST WISH I HADN'T WORN THAT DRESS. GOD, I WAS SUCH A DWEEB!

ROCK AND ROLL!

TO BE CONTINUED...

SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster

Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa

8: Kayoko Kotohiki

1: Mizuho Inada

15: Shuuya Nanahara

8: Yoji Kuramoto

1: Yoshio Akamatsu

16: Yuka Nakagawa

9: Yuko Sakaki

2: Yukio Utsumi

16: Kazushi Niida

9: Hiroshi Kuronaga

2: Keita Iijima

17: Satomi Noda

10: Hirono Shimizu

3: Megumi Etou

17: Mitsuru Numai

10: Ryuhei Sasagawa

3: Tatsumichi Ooki

18: Fumiyo Fujiyoshi

11: Mitsuko Souma

4: Sakura Ogawai

18: Tadakatsu Hatagami

11: Hiroki Sugimura

4: Toshinori Oda

19: Chisato Matsui

12: Haruka Tanizawa

5: Izumi Kanai

19: Shinji Mimura

12: Yutaka Sato

5: Shogo Kawada

20: Kaori Minami

13: Takako Chigusa

6: Yukiko Kitano

20: Kyoichi Motobuchi

13: Yuichiro Takiguchi

6: Kazuo Kiriyama

21: Yoshimi Yahagi

14: Mayumi Tendo

7: Yumiko Kusaka

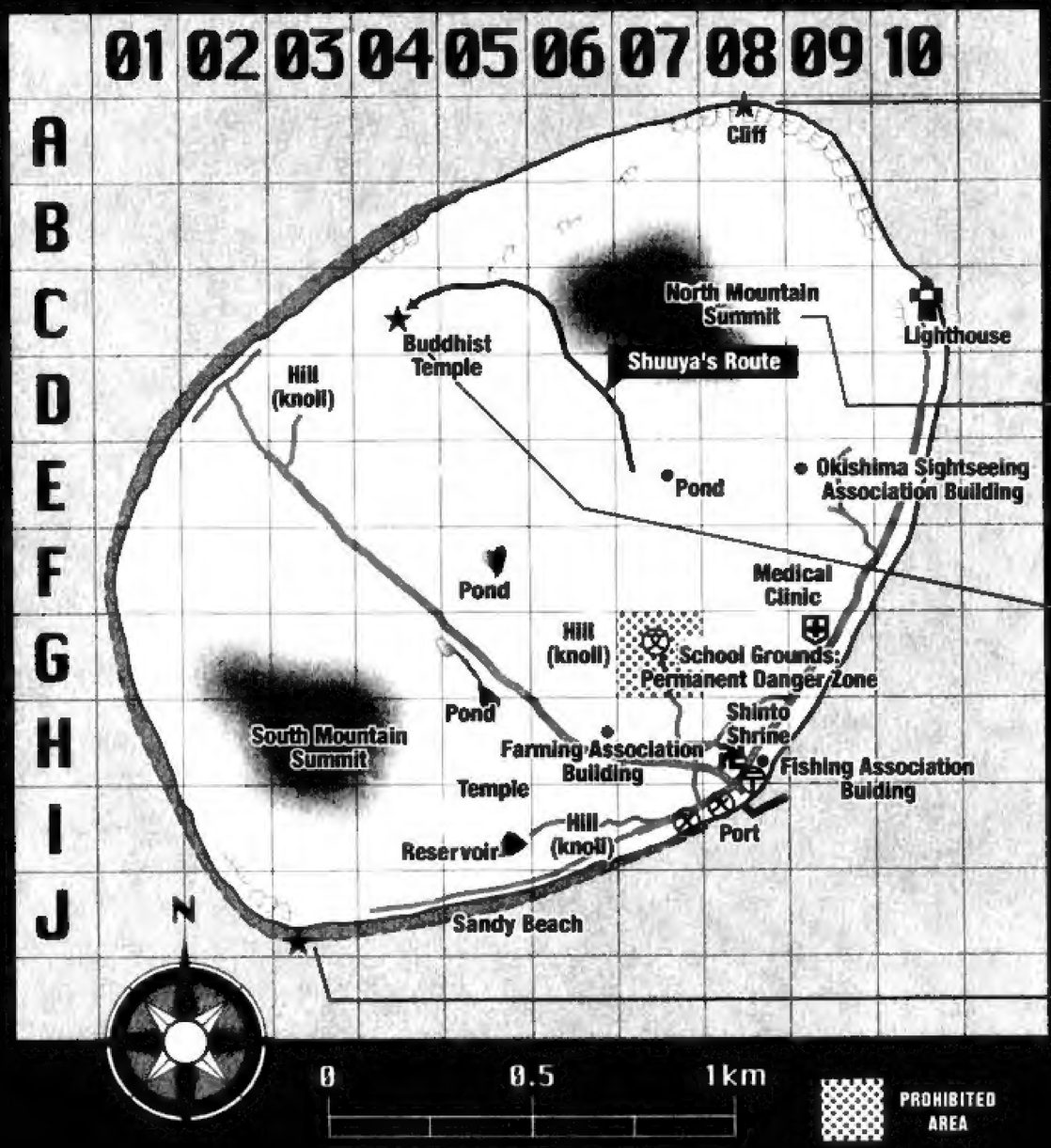
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto

14: Sho Tsukioka

7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu

THE PROGRAM: UPDATE

CHAPTERS 9-16



PROGRAM CONDITIONS:

All members of the class must kill each other until one survivor remains • All students are supplied with a ration of food, a map of the island and a weapon • All students will wear an explosive bomb collar which also monitors life signs • Students are free to move about the island but must stay out of designated danger zones that will frequently change locations • If there is more than one survivor at the end of the game, the remaining bomb collars will be detonated.

CHAPTER 11

Kazuhiko Yamamoto and Sakura Ogawai commit suicide.

CHAPTER 15-16

Yukiko Kitano and Yumiko Kusaka call out to the others.

CHAPTER 13

Shogo Kawada shoots Kyoichi Motobuchi.

CHAPTER 10:

Mitsuru Numai is killed by Kazuo Kiriyama.

BATTLE ROYALE

KOUSHUN TAKAMI & MASAYUKI TAGUCHI

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF BATTLE ROYALE:

The futility of the situation begins to set in for Shuuya and Noriko, as the students realize they might not be able to save their friends. However, just when things are at their darkest, a new wave of hope comes with a startling revelation by Shogo. But can he be trusted? While Shuuya considers his next move, the motives of some other key players become clear as we learn whether the enigmatic Hiroki and the innovative Shinji wish to escape from the game or win it.

Plus: The sordid past of the dangerously sexy Mitsuko is revealed. Can you handle it?

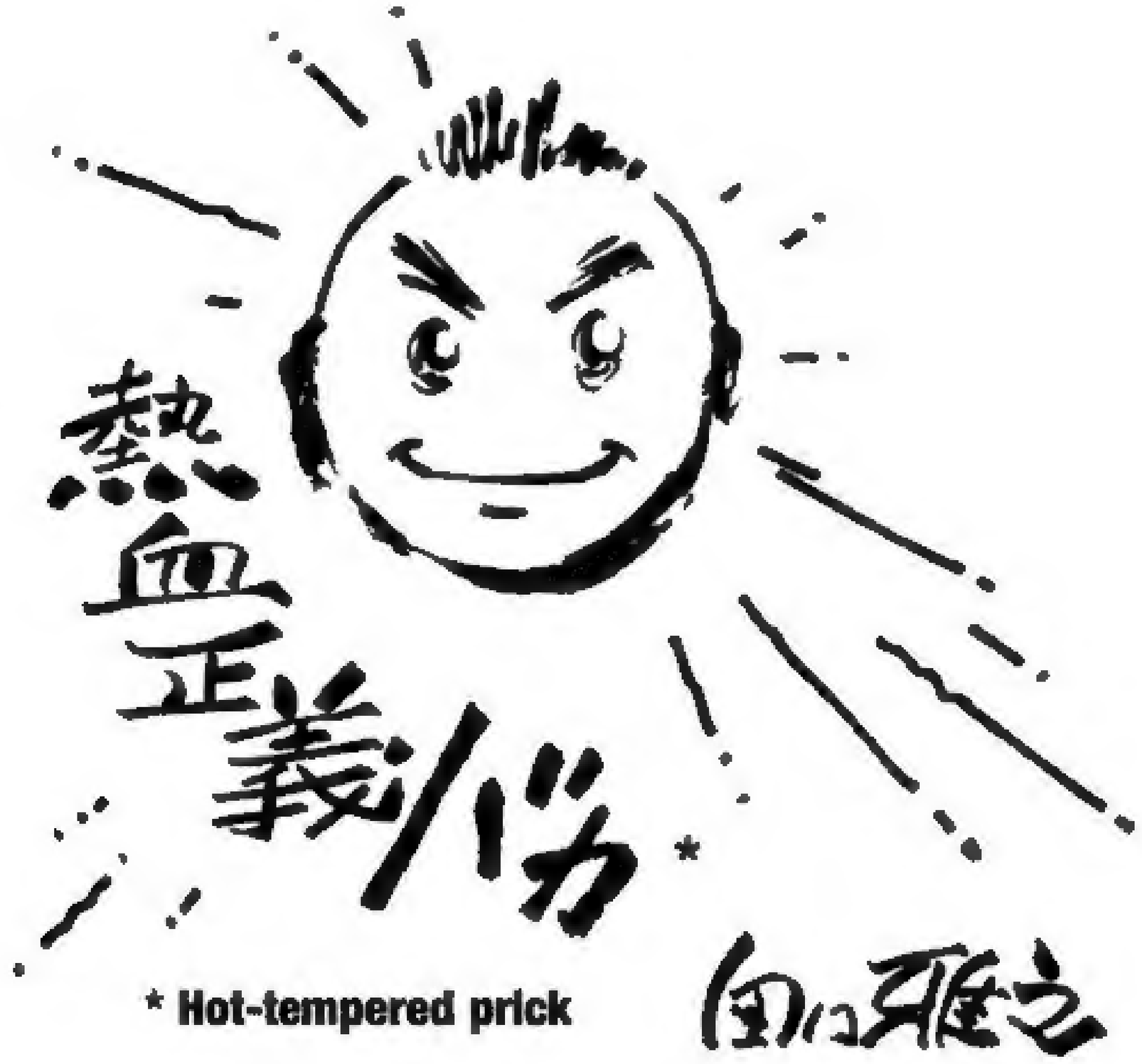
CREATOR'S NOTES

Even though Shuuya Nanahara eventually turned out to be an "optimistic protagonist", he started out differently. I originally created a typical impulsive and hot-tempered character who would fit in technically, but in the end, I think his optimistic and naive character is more appropriate.

For example, we face numerous trials in our daily lives, but even when it looks completely hopeless, we shouldn't make the mistake of simply saying "the end." One who always has hope can be called optimistic, but in emergencies or other times of tribulation, hope becomes essential. So in this story, the students may be helpless, but without hope they cannot confront their dilemma.

As many American novelists say, nothing is worse than hopelessness...although in this case, the students must hold onto what little they have in order to survive.

November 2000 Koushun Takami



* Hot-tempered prick

Let's fill our minds with energizing ideas such as "We live honestly!"

Masayuki Taguchi